

# NORTH MISSION NEWS

MARCH 1990

NORTH MISSION ASSOCIATION  
3004 - 16TH STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Tel: (415) 626-2882

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## RECOVERY COMES TO VALENCIA GARDENS

By all accounts, Marc (Biz Marc) Jones was an exceptionally unlucky young man, even among residents of the crack, poverty and gun-plagued Valencia Gardens project.

Last June, he survived being shot up by one Edwayne Kenneth Variste who, for reasons known only to justice, was back on the streets a month later around midnight on Tuesday, July 25th when Jones' girlfriend called the police on one Maurice "Big Mo" Hendricks for allegedly beating up her sister.

Despite being in possession of a small arsenal when arrested, Hendricks posted bail, was released, hooked up with Variste and, with an AK-47 overlooked earlier that night or following the June shooting, they drove across the Mission to Valencia Gardens for vengeance, which Variste took by splattering the unlucky Marc Jones with more than enough lead to preclude his possibility of surviving this second attack.

The Examiner said the shooting was gang-related, the Chronicle said not. Police said Jones had prior arrests, but no convictions. Neighbors remembered "Biz Marc" as a young man one day past his nineteenth birthday who used to play with their children in VG courtyard.

Some of them further remembered "Biz Marc" by painting graffiti tributes all over the project walls.

Across town, another young black man, Judge Cantrell, decided upon a different way out of the perilous street life of gangs, guns and crack cocaine. He joined the "Generation Class", a recovery program operated by the Glide Methodist Church's "Facts on Crack". Now drug free, Cantrell is a counselor with the program.

This message of recovery or death was brought from the Tenderloin to the Valen-

cia Gardens project on a cold, wet Saturday last month by Glide's charismatic Rev. Cecil Williams. Several hundred Glide parishioners linked up with an equal number of area and project residents to sponsor a day long rally against crack and the gang violence that plagues the City's projects.

Glide marchers, many wearing T-shirts showing the symbolic handcuffs and chains of addiction and carrying signs like "Hope, Not Dope", and "It's Not Black To Smoke Crack" assembled near the Mission Armory and marched noisily for three blocks to VG under the watchful eye of innumerable police officers.

Greeting tenants, including project tenant organizer Carlene Williams, the Rev. Cecil toured the project, banging on doors and asking for residents to join the rally. Some did, others remained behind barred doors and windows... a few people identified by the television crews that followed the proceedings as alleged crack smokers slipped away despite assurances that the marchers were not here to arrest them.

"We want recovery, not jail," Rev. Williams announced from a stage set up in one of the project courtyards as a number of young men, some wearing substantial amounts of gold jewelry, watched the proceedings from the fringes of the crowd, huddled beneath doorways covered with graffiti tags like Pimpin' Lee, Raw Ass Regg and the ubiquitous Biz Marc.

Younger children followed the media crews, mugging for the cameras and comparing experiences. "I'm going to be on Channel 7," one said, while her friend replied, "Well I'm going to be on Channel 2."

As the rain began falling harder, Carlene Williams urged tenants to become involved in the educational, vocational and



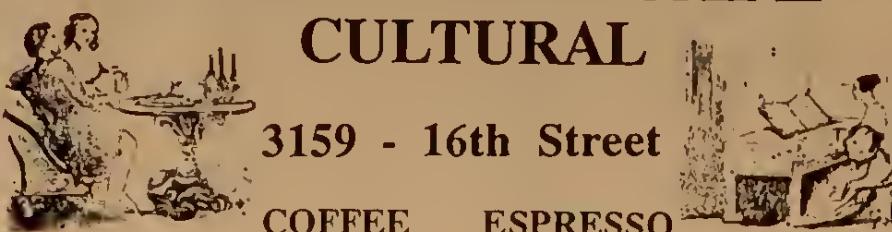
DJ LESLIE STOVAL SPEAKS OUT ON THE VITALITY OF THE MISSION  
SEE PAGE 6 (PHOTO BY FUMINORI SATO)

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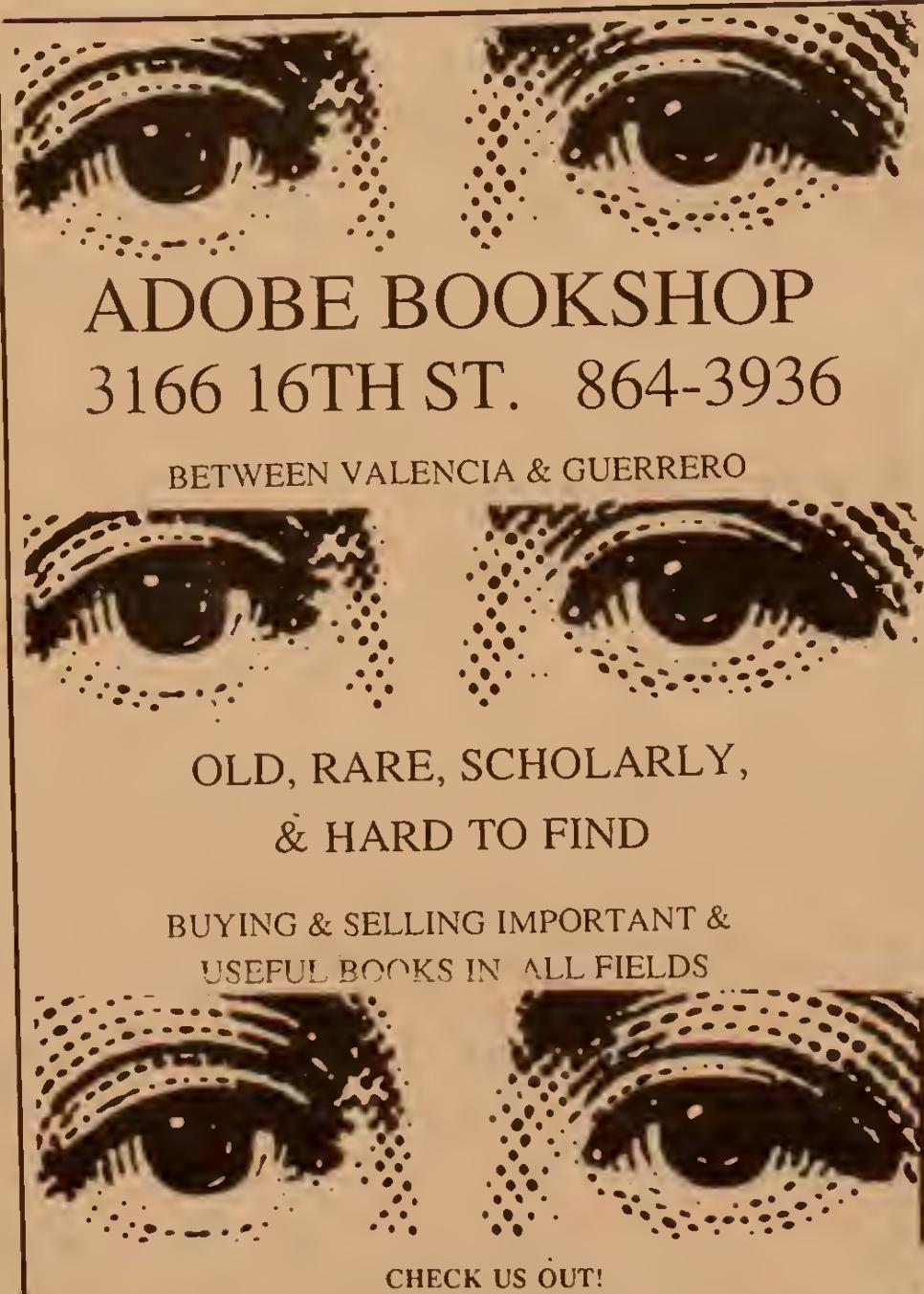
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# FREEZE OUT ON MISSION ST.

- by Chrys Pappas

**A**t 1746 Mission Street, there has been no heat this winter. There was no heat last winter, either, or for the previous 20 years. When Glenda Miskin, a new tenant and the mother of two young children, moved in 14 months ago, she was assured by the building's owners that the problem would be fixed immediately. As of press time he is still waiting. So are 11 other families, most of them of Cambodian descent. Five former neighbors could wait no longer and have fled within the last 4 months.

Asian Inc., a public non-profit housing development company, bought the 16-unit apartment building last fall. They registered the site under the title "Neighborhood Housing Corps" of 1670 Pine Street. When they purchased the property, many urgent repairs were needed. They have not been made.

Broken stairs and trash remain unattended. Earthquake damage has scattered toxic lead paint chips on the floors where children play. Rats and roaches infest some of the apartments. Kitchen and bathroom plumbing leaks (Ms. Miskin waited 3 months to have hot water in her kitchen). Water seeps through the ceilings from top floors. Broken windows and faulty door jambs allow drafts and more cold air to enter the apartments. Ms. Miskin's back door must be nailed open or shut - this is a fire hazard. The upstairs tenants say that their heat works, but there is a strong gas smell - so they don't use it.

Frequent telephone calls to Asian Inc. produced few results for the shivering tenants. Repair people arrived, observed, promised to work "soon", and departed. For heat, Ms. Miskin was advised to use her oven and stay in the kitchen. She followed these orders until



1746 MISSION, COLD HEADQUARTERS (PHOTO BY FUMINORI SATO)

she discovered that the oven, hot water heater and dryer were not vented and she was exposing her children to high levels of monoxide fumes. She stopped using the oven for heat. She bought a space heater, but its 1200 volts blew the circuit every time she tried to use it. A tiny 600 volt heater now hums quietly in a corner of her kitchen.

Telephone calls to the Department of Housing Inspection brought building inspectors and plumbing inspectors to Mission Street. Warnings were issued to Asian Inc. by the Department of Public Works at the Bureau of Building Inspection. A notice of 11/6/89 states that Asian Inc. must:

Provide heat to each occupied habitable room for 13 hours between the hours of 5 AM and 11AM and 3 PM to 10 PM capable of maintaining a minimum room temperature of 60F (20C), and repairs must be completed within 21 days.

A violation notice of 11/7/89 lists

required repairs:

1. Repair and/or replace broken and missing plaster and re-paint throughout.
  2. Repair and/or replace broken and missing window glazing and hardware, including entry door.
  3. Provide pest control service.
  4. Repair and/or replace broken kitchen faucet; install pressure relief valve overflow tube.
  5. Repair back porch west wall and porch floor.
  6. Provide a dead bolt or dead latch lock for the rear door.
- A 21 day completion warning also accompanies this notice.

Further complaints yielded the following notices

1/11/90 COMPLAINT  
All work must be completed within 90 days... and must be certified by the Housing Inspector...

1/18/90 COMPLAINT... must be completed within 30 days.

If of the 8 major violations, only one has been corrected (the hot water in the kitchen now functions). When the North Mission News telephoned Asian Inc. to inquire about the status of the remaining violations (according to the computer in the Building Inspector's office at 450 McAllister Street, no building permit requests had been filed as of 2/15/90), the agency only answered the first question - "the heat will be fixed next week" - before tersely declaring that that was all that they had time for. A later telephone call found them hostile and uncooperative.

Although the secretary promised to have the appropriate person answer questions about funding, the telephone calls were not returned. Asian Inc. received \$325,799 in funds according to the 1989 Final Proposal for Community Development Program and Housing Assistance Plan - where has this money gone? Should some of it have been used to fix the Mission Street building?

The tenants have waited for years now, some patiently, and some not as patiently. They have been frequently promised results, but nothing has changed - so far. During the cold spells of the past month, the tenants anxiously waited for warmth.

Asian Inc. has been sufficiently warned of their building violations. It is time for a change.

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# RECOVERY COMES TO VALENCIA GARDENS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drug recovery programs that have been promised. She asked why kids don't have recreational equipment and, glaring at the TV crews, said "Nobody tells you about the good things people here do," specifically mentioning the dozen young VG photographers whose work was exhibited at the Exploratorium (see January News).

Rev. Williams introduced a series of multi-cultural and multi-generational speakers ranging a 78 year old woman who raised her sweater to show scars received in beatings and muggings dished out by crack-fueled gangsters to English, Spanish and Chinese-speaking youth representatives who urged young people to avoid crack and stay in school and, sometimes, commented on the world beyond.

"A lot of people in the city don't care about you, but we do," said a representative of the Omega Boys Club. "Dope is being put into the projects to keep you down. Where are the jobs?"

But when one of the political activists who had attached himself to the rally shouted out "What about the Contra-CIA cocaine connection?" Rev. Williams took control of the stage, boasting the free lunch that would be served at the rally's end.

This pleased the even more numerous street people who were attracted to the site, although the message of recovery was lost on some. As a young man named David from Youth Awareness vowed, "Everybody can be helped!" one of the tattered helpless lurched through the crowd waving a severed chair leg.

"Aww go to Hell!" he shouted at the stage and sat down to watch the rain darken his shoe. A rapper named Magnolia who described herself as an ex-addict and incest survivor told the crowd:

"Sit down, sit down, take a look at you.

Do you want your kids living like you do?"

In addition to the radicals and street people, the rally also attracted politicians who did not fail to compare events to those occurring overseas.

"It's appropriate we are having this celebration in the month that Nelson Mandela is being released from prison," said David Gilmore, Director of the San Francisco Housing Authority which runs VG and other public housing. He assured his audience that things were great and getting even better. "At Valencia Gardens, we've gone from 40 vacant apartments to only two."

"I'll take one of them!" somebody shouted back.

Mayor Agnos arrived and was introduced by Rev. Williams as a man who takes care of business. "Last week a jail door opened in South Africa and Nelson Mandela walked out in freedom," said the Mayor. "They took down the Berlin Wall and people walked through in freedom. Now that freedom train is here to free people from crack!"

After a few more dignitaries, musicians, rappers and speakers... including a grandmother who said "Psychological slavery is the worst thing that you can do to black people", a counselor who told of an 8 year old boy who tried to commit suicide at school and rapper Camille who told the story of a 12 year old boy killed over a \$30 drug debt, "shot by a bullet without a name"... people began to line up for the free lunch prepared by Glide staffers and volunteers.

"We got lots of food back there," said Rev. Williams, "fried chicken, spaghetti, beans. You know we gonna have a lot of beans."

Photo by M.P.R. Howard



Strategically placed next to the food tables were booths containing information on recovery, parenting, education, AIDS prevention, vocational training and the Glide "Facts on Crack" program.

Judge Cantrell joined the program in December, 1988 as part of the third "generation", a class of recovering cracksters who have come to the program and perhaps sat in one or more of the meetings Glide holds for addicts three times a day, five days a week.

"The Generation Class is a twelve week program," said Cantrell, "based on the black extended-family concept." (Open, however, to people of all neighborhoods and ethnic backgrounds.) "It is not a residential program, but you're given references for medical service, housing, parenting and job development."

Participants agree to urinalysis and if they complete the 12 week program crack-free they go through what Cantrell calls a

"re-birthing ceremony".

Over 90% of those who have completed the program remain clean, according to Eddie Franks of Facts On Crack. "We are re-defining treatment to address the African-American culture," he said.

By the conclusion of the rally, many participants were convinced that the "invasion", coupled with the ongoing programs pledged to the VG tenants, could help turn around the crack problem. Glide Public Relations Director Allen White expressed a hope that the process could be repeated in other projects and Housing Czar Gilmore agreed. "I'd like to do more of these - it focuses attention on the problems."

Since the rally, according to Franks, several people from in and around Valencia Gardens have showed up at Facts On Crack recovery meetings. Both private and such City agencies as the Housing Authority, Health Department and Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice have been meeting and

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working to see that improvements made that rainy Saturday don't simply wash away.

On the other hand, according to local residents, the gangsters still counter-attack after the sun goes down. The gunfire and drug-dealing persists.

In a society where minorities, the young and the poor are often overlooked, there is certainly a paucity of hope and an abundance of dope and guns. Some will choose to go the way of Judge Cantrell, others of Mark Johnson.

In the "Facts On Crack" literature distributed at the rally, Glide notes such symptoms of addiction as paranoia, a sensation of bugs crawling on your skin and an aversion to light it calls "the Dracula Syndrome". For many the choice, hard as it

may seem, boils down to an uncertain but crack-free life or a living death...as a painted name on somebody else's wall.

According to Inspector Carl Klotz, Maurice Hendricks was arrested at the scene of the shooting and later released for lack of evidence. Edwayne Variste was picked up a few weeks later and will come to trial later this month. Klotz requests witnesses contact him at 553-1145. For further information on the "Facts On Crack" program, you can drop in to meetings at 11AM, 3PM and 5PM (Tuesdays and Thursdays excepted) at Glide, 330 Ellis, or call the Crack Hot Line, 771-CRAC.

by Brian Doohan

## FINANCING RECOVERY

Reading the columns, editorials and letters fueling Mr. Hearst's recent anti-homeless campaign, it isn't hard to get the feeling that most "decent" people's concern about the missing safety net stems from a fear that somebody who falls through it will land upon their heads as they scurry throughout the City on their decent business. Now, the Examiner's own Mayor Art Agnos is considering a course of action that may have consequences not even he foresees.

Speaking before the City's neighborhood newspaper editors and reporters last month (while a noisy crowd milled about nearby protesting the incite-hundredth arrest of Food Not Bombs for conspiracy to commit stewardship), Agnos expressed interest in a proposal to persuade people not to give money to panhandlers.

Instead, the typically guilty (or intimidated) liberal would go to a government office and buy a bunch of coupons for a dollar each which he (or she) would give to street beggars. The coupon would entitle said unfortunate to a free meal at either Glide or St. Anthony's soup kitchen.

At first glance, the concept seems ludicrous. Unless existing soup kitchens start booting out the couponless, the more vicious bums hoping for a donation towards their next rock of crack or bottle of Night Train will probably be even more violently outraged by the "gift" of a worthless coupon than they would be when the mark just walks on by.

But, on second thought, why not? A Deputy Mayor at the press briefing stated from his own experience that many homeless people are grateful to the soup kitchens and the opportunity to help them out by turning in coupons for a meal that they

could get anyway would raise their self-esteem.

And, more interestingly, it might also give the homeless a small but welcome voice in the administration of the charities on whom they depend and who are, in turn, dependent upon them. This being San Francisco, even the homeless are vociferous food critics, as readers of such publications as the Homeless Link, Homeless Times, By No Means and other transient and permanent street sheets know very well.

Since it would be very difficult to exclude other charitable enterprises like Martin de Porres or the Hari Krishnas from the program, street gourmets would have the opportunity to "vote with their coupon" for their favorite eating places. Soup kitchens, in turn, would recognize the profit motive and perhaps improve their facilities... put flowers on the table, serve a chilled Chardonnay, include an after-dinner mint.

Moreover, a fair share of coupons probably would wind up in the hands of "outlaw" charities... like Food Not Bombs. Maybe the City could set up its coupon redemption office next to the Hall of Justice. When I ran into the Mayor's press secretary a few days later and brought up the prospect, all he could reply was that it would be hard to discriminate.

So if you've ever been thinking about hopping on the poverty train... from the supply side... this might be a real opportunity to propagate more of the unusual views that seem to float about this area and make money doing so. (Are you hip, Mr. Deadbeat?)

As the sayers are so fond of saying, "Let charity first begin at home!"

Brian Doohan

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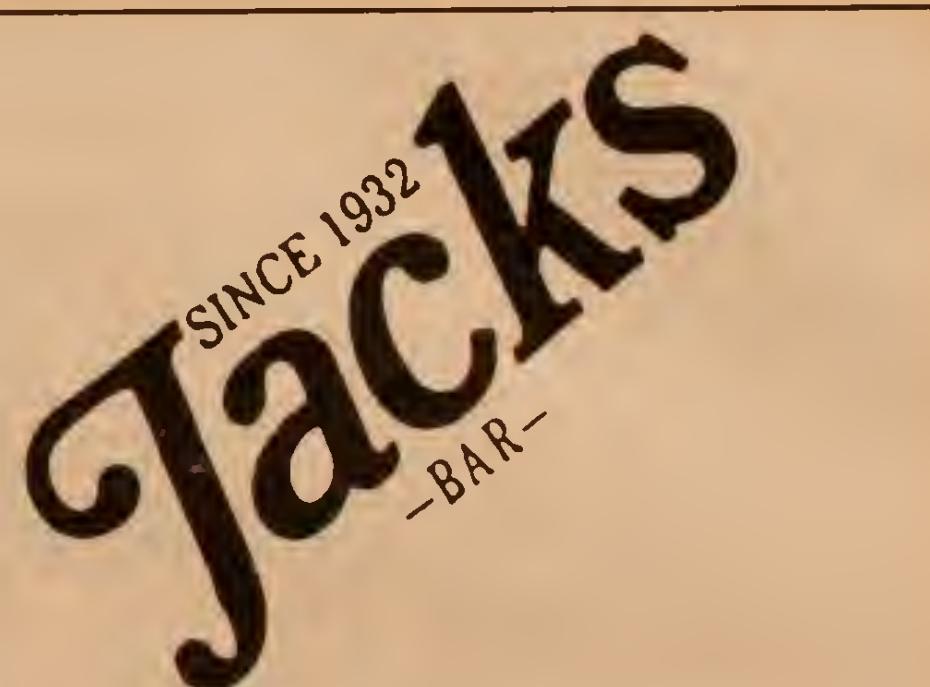


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# THE VITALITY OF THE MISSION

Veteran radio broadcaster and Mission resident Leslie Stoval knows the vitality of Mission youth and young adults. The Mission is home to tens of thousands of people, a vast majority of these people comprise youth and young adults under the age of 25.

The musical tradition of the Mission is rich in awareness, taste and diversity according to KMEL's Stoval. "I find that our part of the community has a strong cultural purity in terms of the music that the Mission emits. As being a professional in the radio broadcasting industry, one cannot be untouched by the Mission's long history of music-trendsetting. With the large segment of youth within the Mission, they bring forth what's really hot into today's music scene. And that I feel is the real common ground to reach our Mission youth, in terms of communication."

To the media hypers of top 20 airplay and advertising to youth young adult listening audiences have become nothing more than marketing targets to some local radio stations and not seen as real people. But KMEL's Stoval has entirely different approach to the typical media hype. She has attempted, over the years, to establish a real dialogue with Mission youth.

"I have found that a majority of the phone calls and letters that I get here at the station are kids from the Mission. That tells me a real lot of communication is on-going on both sides. I try at all times in my show to instill the values of self-esteem and worth. Life for kids is hard and they need viable outlets for positivity and expression of self. And the vitality they display is simply, to say the least, amazing!"

"When I go out to Mission High on the weekend to shoot basketball, you can see for yourself speaking to these kids that they will achieve higher ground. They care very much what is happening to themselves, family and friends within the Mission.

"I emphasize, at the week-end shoots with these fifteen and sixteen year old young adults, that education and employment are the way out, a passport for real freedom to contribute to growth and stability of the Mission. These kids express anger and rage at the issues of high unemployment and the chronic use of drug and alcohol abuse by their peers. Listening to Mission youth, you see that learning survival skills today will shape a better tomorrow. These guys want more in life than getting high or 'hanging out' in the park."

"They want to help support their families and buy their parents new housing. I find that these young people have the desire and motivation, but perhaps even more important, they are learning to be responsible for their conduct and actions in their daily lives. They show that positivity is the key and I agree with them because they are showing all the signs of becoming high achievers. These kids work hard in school and their part-time jobs."

Stoval is really different, in that she really cares about the ongoing issues that Mission youth face. "I really admire Mission High School, they are really taking the bull by the horns. They have this wonderful program that is geared for unwed pregnant teen-mothers. Motherhood can present a great burden for young teen women without proper adult support. Most of these



D.J. LESLIE STOVAL (PHOTO BY FUMINORI SATO)

young women feel alone and their self-worth is very low about being a mom.

"That's where the Mission High connection becomes very important. It has to be one of the most progressive, real world programs that really is on top of being a teen mom in the 1990's. Again, it's about the right place and time that comes from out of the Mission.

"It's a privilege to be a parent, not a right. And a lot of these parents to be are learning these facts very quickly on the positive side. Young adults, both men and women, should not have to be alone when they are dealing with such important issues. Understanding and decent support from the community and families can really make a big difference for teen mothers and fathers here in the Mission.

"Here at KMEL, we are aware of the large number of issues that today's youth must face. For a lot of these young people it can really be very overwhelming. For the last three summers, we have put together the 'Summer Jams' concerts for young people from the Mission and all over the Bay Area. We have all the major entertainers that have airplay on the station come out and do a large benefit concert to help get the message out about the dangers of drugs but, in particular, crack cocaine.

"The response from the young people is not to be underestimated. They are tired of the whole crack mess and want people to know they really care. 'Summer Jam' gives them that outlet to let the community know. Because most of these kids are not happy about their friends or peers being around this cancer. Kids always will let you know off the top what they feel or think if you really listen to them. Drugs are simply messing up their friends' lives, and Mission youth that I talk with are the first to let you know that fact.

"On my show I communicate a message, that's really simple! Give me a call and let's communicate ideas. I'm simply in touch with my listening audience and want to hear from them. A lot of these calls stem from the Mission and that's a good feeling to know. They have got to know that adults from all walks of life really care about their problems and the quality of life can and always, with hard work, will be much better than they think. Radio lets kids know on a big scale that they are not alone and what affects one can affect the other. That is the

Expose, Stevie B and Shiela E long before mainstream radio latched on Mission kids have helped to get artists like these and others like them out into the mainstream radio community.

"I play a lot of new and exciting material that is definitely on the Latin side of things. My request line lights up like a Christmas tree. These kids know that if we have it, I'm going to play it. And this is where the bond of trust is established between Mission youth and myself. I want them to know that I care about them and the daily problems they face. I am here for them and I try to service, on air, an attitude that we are all in this together.

"I try to tell them that you are not alone. I always try and give all the positivity that I can because the 1990's are not easy for kids. We, as adults, must emphasize daily that they cannot throw in the towel. That to finish school is number one and not get sidetracked with destructive issues. That adults do care about you and your problems. And that with belief and respect for yourself, anything is possible. Because Mission youth are great people and they have to be told in word and in action, that they can make life better. And I'm all about that."

by Micheal Ali

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# MODERN DAY CESAR

- by John Mason

**W**hen Cesar Ascarrunz graduated from UC Berkeley in the early sixties, he got a job in a bank. Shuffling papers earned him \$475 a month. On weekends he played piano with a group of friends. Banging on the keys brought in \$1,000 a month.

"That's when I decided to go into the entertainment business," explains Cesar, the Bolivian-born tycoon who has been operating Bay Area restaurants and nightclubs for the past 25 years. Yet Cesar is much more than an entertainer: in his spare time he promotes community and minority organizations, plays with his antique fire engines and runs for Mayor.

Despite this varied community involvement, Cesar is best known for Cesar's Latin Palace. The nightclub moved from North Beach to the Mission in 1978 when Cesar walked into 3140 Mission Street, then a rundown bowling alley, and envisioned a throbbing tropical dance club.

The vision is now a reality. On first glance you know the Latin Palace is not your typical South of Market scene. The place is huge, its decor a strange mix of the ethnic and the tacky: large masks on the walls, tinsel trinkets dangling from the high ceiling, mirrored walls and electronic message boards telling you to come to the place you already are.

Above all else, Cesar's is a place to dance. Posing against the bar with your drink will get you nothing but a fat tab. When Cesar takes the stage, the long rows of tables empty and the spotlight moves to the dance floor. Salsa is king, but the selection includes samba, tango, mazurka, rumba and the latest tropical craze, lambada. During the breaks a DJ spins a mix of Latin and more typical dance tunes. The moves are fast and fancy yet strictly traditional: couples only shake and twirl to the tropical sta-



CESAR AT WORK

cato. Typically the weekend crowd is an even mix between Anglos and Latinos, though there's usually a much higher proportion of Latinos on Saturday than on Friday.

In the Latin Palace, Cesar is clearly in charge: he owns, operates, shmoozes, serves drinks, presides over the four-tiered door hierarchy, seats important guests and, most vitally, stars in his band, the Latin All-Stars. Cesar is not modest in describing his clientele, which has included all manner of movie moguls, entertainers and politicians, not to mention the head of the KGB (Cesar says the Russian government once asked him to open a place in Moscow). A couple of years ago, Cesar threw a birthday bash to celebrate a quarter century in the business; among the guests were Joan Baez, Mimi Farina and Ed Bradley of *Sixty Minutes*, who did a short segment on the party for the

program.

It's hard to believe that same person leading this show finished second to Diane Feinstein in the 1983 mayoral race, but a daytime interview offers a different impression of the man. Cesar is a fiercely political man. He describes Feinstein as "a racist" who ignores the Mission district and states that Agnos is a "nice man, an outsider who's here to get as much money as he can". Cesar's campaign literature in the last election portrayed Agnos as a dog being walked by State Assemblyman Willie Brown. In the upcoming gubernatorial race, Cesar will support Pete Wilson, claiming "he'll win whether you like it or not."

In the Mission district, Cesar hopes to continue the trends of the past ten years, which he sees as reduced crime and more development.

"Before I came to the Mission district, it was a very dangerous place.

Even I was afraid to come here. Now crime is everywhere, spread out, and the people are coming to our neighborhood." In response to critics of gentrification, he asserts that "you have to have businesses -- if you don't have businesses, then the Mission will be a sleepy place."

Cesar makes clear that his civic concern is not limited to the Mission. He has been active in the controversy to tear down the Embarcadero and, in the interview, he leaked his alternative to the current situation. He supports the tearing down of the Embarcadero, which would free up valuable real estate, and proposes another roadway running along the edge of the wharf's pier, which would connect the Bay Bridge with the Golden Gate.

For more obvious reasons, Cesar supports a movement to extend drinking hours to 4:00 AM. He believes an extension would not increase crime and would help San Francisco become a world-class entertainment center. He also points out that after hours service is already a reality in the ice hotels and certain clubs ignored by the Alcoholic Beverages Commission.

"You cannot win with the ABC. They commit the crime, then they give me a citation. They harass me, they treat me like a criminal," he complained. He views the harassment as another case of institutional discrimination against the Hispanic community.

Cesar says he hasn't decided if he'll run for Mayor in 1991, although most observers would be surprised if he didn't. His mention of every politically correct cause during the interview suggests he is already gearing up for another crack at the office.

His reputation continues to grow throughout the City, especially among the club crowd. Some night lifers admit they were confused by the long list of candidates in the last election. If Cesar's Latin Palace replaced Cesar Ascarrunz on the ballot, he could count on at least a few more votes.



## SAN FRANCISCO FREE EATS CHART MARCH 1990

NAME, LOCATION, PHONE NUMBER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1350 Waller St. (near Masonic) 621-1862	Bag lunch 12:30-12:45pm						Brunch 10:30-11:00am	
FOOD NOT BOMBS Civic Center Plaza & east side of Golden Gate Park 330-5030	7:00-7:30pm Civic Center Plaza by Polk & Grove	12:00-4:00pm Golden Gate Park by Page & Stanyan	12:00-4:00pm Civic Center Plaza by Polk & Grove	7:00-7:30pm Civic Center Plaza by Polk & Grove	VEGETARIAN. Wed-Sun: miso soup. Mon & Tues: miso soup, rice and beans; often free produce.			
GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH 330 Ellis St. (at Taylor) 441-6501	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	Bag dinners to go provided after lunch on Sunday and Saturday.
HAIGHT-ASHBURY FOOD PROGRAM 1525 Waller St. (near Belvedere) 566-0366			Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		VEGETARIAN alternative. Volunteers welcome at 8:00am.
HOSPITALITY HOUSE YOUTH CENTER 146 Leavenworth St. (near Turk) 776-2102		Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		Only for youths under 20. Sandwich, juice and fruit.
MARTIN DE PORRES 225 Potrero Ave. (near 16th St.) 552-0240	Brunch 9:00-10:30am	6:00-7:30am	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	Breakfast: oatmeal and coffee. Lunch: a hearty soup.
MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY 1330 41st St. (at 3rd St.) 821-9687	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Dinner 5:00-6:30pm	Soup and sandwiches.
NEIGHBORHOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 608 Hayes St. (near Laguna) 621-8748							Lunch every last Saturday 12:00-2:00pm	
NINETEENTH AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH U.N. Plaza in front of old Federal Building (50 Hyde St.) 564-7721							Dinner every fourth Saturday 4:30-5:00pm	Soup, bread and fruit.
PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA DEL SUR 976 South Van Ness Ave. (near 21st St.) 647-1000	Breakfast every first Sunday 8:00-9:00am							A full breakfast.
ST. ANTHONY'S DINING ROOM 45 Jones St. (near Golden Gate) 552-3838	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Showers, laundry, haircuts and other services available. Call 552-3838 ext. 142.
ST. JOHN'S AFRICAN ORTHODOX (ONE MIND TEMPLE) 351 Divisadero St. (near Oak) 621-4054	Lunch 3:30-4:30pm	Lunch 2:30-3:30pm		Lunch 12:00-1:00pm				VEGETARIAN. Sun & Mon: beans, rice, veggies, salad, & fruit. Wed: noodle soup & bread.
ST. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH 666 Filbert St. (off Washington Sq.)	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	"A simple sandwich for people of North Beach."
SMALL FREE INN OUTDOORS McAllister & Leavenworth, behind U.N. Plaza fountain 648-3222							Lunch 1:00-2:30pm	VEGETARIAN. Always soup, bread and fruit.
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH 1399 McAllister St. (near Pierce) 923-0259					Lunch 1:00-2:00pm			Meal entree, vegetables, salad and dessert.
UNITED COUNCIL OF HUMANSERVICES Mini-park on Howard & Langton (near 7th St.) 822-5067							Dinner 4:00-6:00pm	Meal entree with vegetables.

We'd like your corrections, comments, or additions for our next monthly update. Please call 648-3222.  
This chart may be reproduced freely (but call first to make sure you have the most current information).

# MISSION BEATS!

## LIFESTYLES of the POOR and OBSCURE

J.B Saunders is loose!

Lifestyles in Conflict!

Pat Howard at home!

Permission Wall:  
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March 7  
4:30 pm

Community Access  
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A North Mission News Presentation/Segue Systems Production

# NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

Photo by M.P.R. Howard



2813-17 FOLSOM, SCENE OF FATAL FIRE

## FATAL FOLSOM FEBRUARY FIRE

A three year old boy was killed and his five year old sister critically injured in a Folsom Street fire on February 7. The fire started at 10:14 PM in the second-floor flat of 2813-15-17 Folsom Street. When the firefighters arrived on the scene, 3 year old Ruben Arias had already expired. His sister, Nadine Quintero-Arias, was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital with extensive third-degree burns. She is currently at the Saint Francis Memorial Hospital Bothin Burn Center, in critical condition.

The final Fire Department report has not yet been submitted, but it appears that the fire, which started under the sofa, was caused by "human error". The children may have been playing with matches. Francesca Quintero, the children's grandmother, was also in the flat. She was not injured.

The fire caused a total of \$100,000 worth of damage, \$75,000 to the building and \$25,000 to the contents. Approximately 12 people have been displaced from their homes as a result of the fire.

- Amy Greenstadt

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Project Share, a food distribution co-op, has moved to Saint John's Episcopal Church at 15th Street and Julian. For \$13 and two hours of community service, anyone can buy a box of food from Project Share. The boxes are distributed towards the end of each month when food stamps and money tend to run out.

"This is not a food hand-out program," says Pat Howard, Co-ordinator. Instead, Project Share is a cooperative, funded largely by the money individuals pay for "shares" -- or boxes of food. The organization was started in San Diego. Now, there are locations all over the Bay Area as well, as far south as the Santa Cruz mountains and as far east as Chico.

People who wish to participate in Project Share must sign up at the office and arrange what community service they are going to perform. Sign-up time is every Monday from 9 AM to noon. Then, when the boxes of food are distributed, shareholders must show a receipt for the community work they have done. The boxes contain meats, fruits, vegetables and staple items.

At the moment, Project Share is partially funded by the American Front Service Commission, a Quaker organization. But Pat Howard would like

to increase the number of shares sold -- currently, about 30 are sold per month -- and make the organization a fully self-supporting cooperative.

(For further information, contact Pat Howard at 626-5640 or Trish Ahlstrand at 621-2063 x. 411.)

- Amy Greenstadt

## EUREKA! CHEAP FUN FOR MISSION RESIDENTS!

The Eureka Theater Company will be offering half-price tickets to Mission residents starting March 15.

The theater, located at 2730 16th Street off Harrison, is offering the discount as part of a new effort to reach more people in the community. The Eureka is a non-profit company that mainly produces new plays having social and/or political content.

Officially called the Arts in the Community program, the theater's new outreach effort also includes organizing special matinee performances for school children, as well as other projects.

The Mission residents' discount applies to main stage productions only, on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday nights and is subject to availability. The regular price of admission is \$13, but anyone who can prove Mission residency may purchase tickets for \$6.50. Those wishing to buy tickets must do so after 6 PM on the night of the show.

The Eureka box office number is 558-9898. Their current main stage production is the west coast premiere of Ma Rose.

- Amy Greenstadt

## MAKING YOURSELVES COUNT

As much as 10 percent of the Hispanic community was not counted in the 1980 census, the Census Bureau estimates. To help find out why, a study will begin this March to investigate census undercounting of Hispanics in the Mission District, the hub of San Francisco's Spanish-speaking community. The study is part of a nationwide campaign to improve census data on minority groups.

Mary Romero, chair of La Raza Studies at San Francisco State University, will conduct the Mission study. "Our findings will attempt to explain why some members of the community are not included in the census," she said. "Explanations might range from the inability to understand a written Spanish-language census form to distrust of the government." Romero and student volunteers will study 50 to 100 households in a target area of the Mission. "We'll spend time with the families to collect detailed data on the

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households," she said.

Romero, who holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Colorado, received a \$30,000 grant from the U.S. Census Bureau to do an ethnographic evaluation of behavioral causes of census undercounting.

She will conduct her research at the same time that workers collect data for the 1990 census. Once her work is completed, Romero will compare her data with that of the census workers and try to account for any discrepancies.

This information will be passed on to the Census Bureau, which will begin to develop strategies for solving the problem of undercounting.

Romero is also a member of Mayor Art Agnos' Complete Count Committee and of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's "Make Yourself Count" campaign, both public awareness efforts to combat census undercounting.

Researchers in 30 other cities across the country are conducting similar studies to improve census data collection among minority groups such as Hispanics, Asians and blacks. Two other studies will be conducted in the Bay Area; one on the homeless in San Francisco's Tenderloin and another on Native Americans in Oakland.

- Amy Greenstadt

#### ROMERO REMEMBERED

"I have to confess that, as a Christian, I don't believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will rise again in the Salvadoran people."

So said Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, El Salvador's martyr to the world, and it is with this spirit that San Francisco's Salvadoran refugee community will put on the Concert for Peace, A Tribute to Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

Sponsored by the Central American Refugee Committee (CRECE), a grassroots organization started by and for Central American refugees which also advocates for peace and justice in Central America, the concert will take place on March 31 at the York Theater. Groups playing in the concert include the reggae dance group Caribbean All Stars, Grupo Manantial, who play in the New Song tradition, and the featured group, Izalco, a Salvadoran band who are part of their country's New Popular Song movement.

Though he was assassinated over ten years ago, Romero still inspires Salvadorans in their work towards a new, more just El Salvador.

Speaking for CRECE, Salvadoran refugee Walter Huguet states, "This concert is a way for us to reaffirm our hope and our commitment. We are committed to peace in El Salvador and our hope is that one day we will be able to return to our homeland. Ten years ago, Romero was assassinated for that hope and that commitment."

Romero made his mark in the hearts of Salvadorans through his unflinching faith in and work with El Salvador's oppressed masses. In 1987, the Vatican chose Romero because they regarded him as a conservative who, before becoming El Salvador's Archbishop, was known mostly for his love of rules and clerical discipline. Events such as the murder of Romero's close friend, Father Rutilio Grande, and the siege of Aguilares which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Salvadorans at the hands of El Salvador's infamous military, however, soon thrust Romero into the struggle of El Salvador's poor majority.

Through sermons from the pulpit and on the radio, Romero became known as the "Voice of those who had no voice". He broke with traditional clerical roles by working closely among his people and denouncing human rights violations and by providing biblical foundations for Christian participation in social processes favoring El Salvador's poor.

Tying his religious belief with his deep faith in the Salvadoran people, Romero stated in a now famous letter to then-Presi-

dent Jimmy Carter requesting an end to military aid and U.S. intervention in El Salvador, "No power other than the people is capable of overcoming the crisis."

One month after writing the letter, Romero was assassinated while saying Mass.

Ten years after his death, El Salvador's crisis continues. Currently, an average of five Salvadorans are captured by the security forces per day. Popular organizations are being harassed daily and the churches have been a special focus of government repression as evidenced in the savage slayings of Romero's six fellow clergymen and their two helpers.

Also continuing, after ten years, is the work for which Romero gave his life. The Concert for Peace is a local manifestation of Romero's spirit. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the work of the churches in El Salvador.

(For further information about the concert, please call CRECE at 824-5928.)

by Roberto Lovato

#### WHO SNATCHED HASHI RABBIT?

Somewhere in the Bay Area, a \$500 bunny is hopping, twitching its nose, munching carrots and, generally, doing those things which rabbits do except, perhaps, for muttering "What's Up, Doc?"

What's up is that Hashi, a 3 1/2 year old brown, gray and white rabbit, is not at home and his owner is upset - \$500 worth of upset. That's the reward being offered as many Mission residents already have seen from the flyers posted round the neighborhood.

What happened was that rabbit recovery agent Robin Stewart gave Hashi to a friend who was going through a "difficult emotional period" in 1987. It was a match made in Heaven... or Wonderland.

"He's an exceptional rabbit," Stewart told the News. "He responds to his name, he can do tricks... like playing 'dead rabbit'... and most of all he's very tame. He doesn't even bite people he knows."

This is a bunny even Jimmy Carter would appreciate.

But, over the Christmas holiday, the owner went on vacation, boarding Hashi with a combination pet shoppe/kennel on Mission Street. The unthinkable occurred! A sales clerk mistook Hashi for one of the ordinary rabbits-for-sale and peddled him to an appreciative buyer.

According to Stewart, Hashi was sold to a Spanish-speaking man with two children - a boy with glasses around 8 to 11 years old and his younger sister, perhaps 5 or 6.

So if you have or know a kid who's got a new rabbit or who has a friend who got a bunny in his or her Christmas stocking, Robin would like to hear from you (821-2821). Hashi's "distinctively" colored (that means you late ninters can forget about the shoe polish), about a foot long (small for his age) and neutered (ouch!). And he's late for a very important date with an owner who loves him dearly... \$500 worth!

Bring Hashi back! P-p-puhleecaz!

by E. Dowd

**Puerto Rican Network Nite:** This organization that envisions the creation of a sense of identity and community among Puerto Ricans in San Francisco, will have a cultural evening with music, food, guest artists, and information about the Network's future plans.

A good opportunity to get acquainted with issues related to Puerto Rico, and to learn more about its culture and music. This activity will be held on March 24, 1990, starting at 7:00 in the Mission Cultural Center in San Francisco, 2884 Mission St., between 24th and 25th Sts. Tickets are \$10 (12 at door) and includes dinner. No Host Bar. (415) 399-5225

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**WOMEN'S DAY 1990**

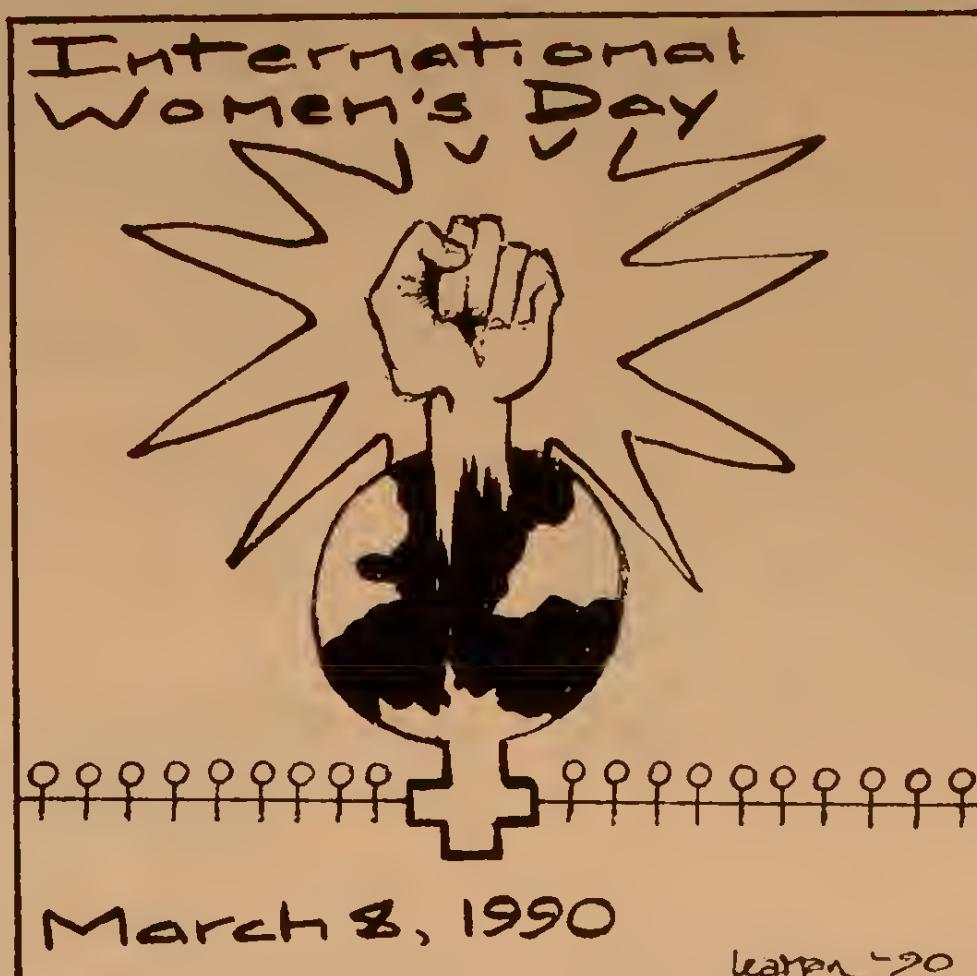
**T**hink globally on March 8: it's International Women's Day! Events on this day and throughout the month of March (also known as Women's History Month) will recognize the struggles and triumphs of women all over the world.

On March 8, there will be an International Womens' Day demonstration. If you "Still Ain't Satisfied" (the theme of the demonstration) then gather at 4:30 PM at the Justin Hermann Plaza near the Embarcadero BART. This demonstration is sponsored by Women Against Imperialism, The International Women's Day Organizing Committee, Bay Area Pledge of Resistance, Women's Caucus and the Gabriela Network.

"Ademusa", an association of Salvadoran women, will host an International Women's Day celebration at the S.F. Women's Building on Saturday, March 10, from 7:30 - 10 PM. The celebration will feature a forum and, also, a band. Call Sheila Medina at 826-8551 for details.

The S.F. Women's Building will commemorate International Women's Day this year with a "mini-conference" exploring the issues confronting women workers. The conference is entitled "Women Workers of the Future: Threads of Resistance", to be held Sunday, March 11 from 1-5 PM.

The program features a speaker's panel and four workshops, with participation by



over 10 women's organizations. Cosponsors of the conference are Asian American

Women Advocates (AIWA), both the East Bay and San Francisco Coalitions of Labor

Union Women (CLUW) and the Women's Building.

The panel will discuss perspectives on economic restructuring over the past decade here and abroad which has led to the "global assembly line", explains Marta Ames from the Women's Building, who helped organize the conference. Speaking on the panel will be Margaret Butz from the East Bay CLUW and SEIU Local 790, Sadie Geli-Williams from the Instituto Laboral de la Raza and the Center for Ethics and Social Policy, and Young Shin of the Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA). Young Shin will present a slide show of international working women. Also present will be members of the AIWA Workers Board, a group of women representatives who organize women factory

workers.

Workshops will look further into the effects the "global assembly line" has on women. Workshop themes include: Immigrant and Refugee Women, Health Care, Women and Organized Labor and Women and Poverty. Volunteers are still needed for the day of the event, March 11. If you can help, please call Marta Ames at 864-8108.

Translation for the conference is available in Spanish. Childcare will be provided; please call 431-1180 before March 7 to make reservations.

by Betsy Randolph

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## WOMEN'S PLACES

Some call it the Valencia Valley. It is known to others as Lower Dolores Heights. Whatever its name, there is no denying that this area of the Mission plays host to a strong women's community. The stretch of Valencia Street from 21st to 23rd is dense with businesses run by women, including the well known Artemis Cafe.

Pell, the owner of Woman Crafts West, opened her shop in the Mission almost seven years ago after giving her time to two other woman-run enterprises in the area: Old Wives' Tales Books and Bay Area Feminist Federal Credit Union. The credit union was run and owned by the members who decided to create an outlet designed to make loans to women in the community. Unfortunately the pioneering organization no longer exists. "We were never able to recoup from the original bad loans we made," Pell says sadly, "the government made us close."

The area continues to attract women entrepreneurs and Pell remains. Today she can be found running a craft store that carries art created by over 450 different women artists from around the world. "It's the fullest full-time job I've ever had," she says. Pell's wrists are loaded down with bracelets, but out of all the things in the shop, she is most fond of the pottery. "It's mostly the flow of the clay. And each piece is so different. It really brings out the personality of the artist."

Pell doesn't have any answers as to why the area is so popular with women business owners. By the time she opened Woman Crafts, the trend had already been established. It was natural for her to start her business here because of a familiarity with the neighborhood.

Photography, stained glass, jewelry and sculpture are only a few of the arts represented at Woman Crafts West. "Very rarely does someone bring something in that I won't sell," Pell explains, "women always seem to know what we need and it always complements the collection. It's like having all sorts of candle holders and someone brings the perfect candle."

Next door at Old Wives' Tales, collective member Charolette Graves states the case for the Mission more clearly. "There is a very large women's community in the area. The housing is cheaper. Women are certainly poor, not by design. It would be nice to be in the Castro. That's where the boys are. They have more money."

Old Wives' Tales began 13 years ago with \$5,000 as a response to what the founding collective members recognized as a great need for feminist book outlets. They have built it into much more than that. Today the store does a mail order business



PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

JOAN BLANK OF GOOD VIBRATIONS

that sends books as far away as Japan and Brazil.

Lesbian novels make up a large section of the inventory and the collective has a reputation as an outlet for this literature. But Old Wives' Tales has an extensive selection of works by women of color, studies of women in the labor movement and non-sexist, multi-cultural children's books. The collective is proud to be involved in the Children's Literacy Project. Working with other women in the community, they are bringing books into shelters such as those for battered women. "It's a group of professional women with money helping those who don't," Graves says, adding "books are expensive."

The store holds a semi-regular Thursday evening reading by authors whose works grace the shelves. Local author Alice Walker recently held a signing for her newest book, "Temple of My Familiar" there. The store can be contacted for details on upcoming events.

At 23rd and Valencia is a store that was started by Joani Blank, a former sex-therapist for pre-orgasmic women. Her goal was to open a shop women could feel comfortable going in to purchase their erotic supplies. Thirteen years after starting her business, Joani knows of only a handful of businesses like Good Vibrations and it amazes her. She has had nothing but positive comments and support. "In all the years I've never had a single person come in to say they were unhappy. Nothing. We've always been very low-key, more to protect the privacy of the people in there

than to keep us less visible," she reports.

The shop is an outlet for vibrators of all descriptions and does mail order and workshops as well. Most of the classes are for women only, some are lesbians only but the most popular class is the one for men. "Eve's Secrets Revealed" is a workshop on female sexuality for their heterosexual partners. "You'd be surprised at the variety of men that show up," Joani laughs. The erotic reading circle is another popular event hosted by Good Vibrations. Participants are invited to read their own work or the work of their favorite erotic writers. There

is always a workshop pending and those interested can sign up at the shop.

Although not run as a collective, Good Vibrations is a nearly perfect democracy with an equal voice given to all employees. Everyone participates in decisions on what to carry in the store and wages and benefits are self-designated. Joani fought the recent decision to carry videos "tooth and Nail" with the staff but she was out-voted.

Good Vibrations has been in various locations around the Mission and Joani is happy to be surrounded by the Valencia women's businesses. She admits that she originally selected the area because, as a commuter, it was easy to reach from the freeway. But she also felt the neighborhood "felt like a safe place where women could go."

By imperfect estimates, women make up 70 percent of the customers at Good Vibrations. Joani says that the most important thing is for women to feel comfortable buying erotica. "It makes all the difference that there is a woman behind the counter," she points out. Still, people have their doubts. "They just can't imagine it," she says. "Everybody expects it to be more yucky than it is. Even people who are very blase about sex. They have never seen these products in such a setting."

All three women lamented the fact that there were not more stores like theirs. Each of them could name at least one similar business that had failed. But what is recognized, in the end, is the importance and difficulty of their success. Charolette Graves puts it well: "It's hard to make it financially. Low salary, long hours. Not just to blame Reaganomics, but that's how it is. It's the conservative trend.

by Kirsten Voris

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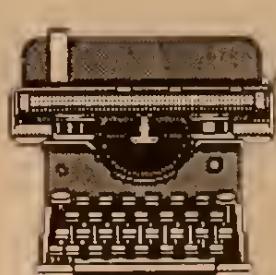
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## CARNAVAL COUNTDOWN

**Ball of Balls** The annual MECA produced *Carnaval Valentine Ball*(2/17) at the Galleria was truly great. The first local effort following the big Brazilian show *Oba Oba* at the *Orpheum theatre* sold 100,000 plus seats last year was outstanding. It seemed like nearly all the stars of the Bay Area's CARNAVAL GRAND PARADE were there and the feeling that this was our year and our decade was in the air. All told the four dance troupes, two *bateria* percussion units, Samba Pagode with Junior Rossitor and Malandro, the sweet music of the Trinidadian Our Boys Steel Band, the twenty Lambada contestants, and the King & Queen Coronation added up to an incredible 150 performers all giving all the had to give to the assembled good-time throng. The following Saturday many of the same faces gathered at the same place for the *Friends of Brazil Club's 21st Annual Carnaval Ball* featuring large-scale musical direction by the talented local artist, Celia Malheiros. This year the friendly competition between the two Balls produced two of the best shows ever but this time the former gets the nod.

\* \* \*

New to San Francisco Carnaval this year is the King & Queen Contest & Coronation. This pagan rite which has always been a primal part of both ancient and contemporary carnival traditions. Our King Michael Jenkins & Queen Sweetwyne have that royal blood which embodies the carnival spirit plus a long association with the annual 10 year old event. Special thanks to MC and costume designer Pam Minor of the *Costume Bank* one of four founders who worked long and hard to make the event special. The king these last years, Ron Gallegos, President of *Mission Neighborhood Centers*, is now Emperor for Life and we are lucky to have his majestic talents which he regally demonstrated by taking charge of the Coronation. The fellow to his left was the 3000 year old carnival wizard known as the Grand Pooba.

\* \* \*

The first group *SAMBAO* led by dancer, Jorge Duarte started the proceedings off with a very flashy opening number that had all the women talking. Weekly meetings now being held at International Center, 50 Oak, SF Saturdays 11-1pm. Call 824-4699 for more info... *SAMBA DE ALEGRIA*'s star & director, Marlene Rosa Lima was bewitching with her charm and grace. As last year's queen and two time parade Grand Prize winner, Marlene is SF-CARNAVAL's biggest star, yet she chose to be just a member of her troupe rarely coming front and center. This curious maneuvering had the effect of focusing attention on her delightful and many costumes. Last year her happy samba dance troupe did not compete in the parade, due in part to Marlene's desire to develop her clothing design career. This year she is back and giving classes at both the *Mission Cultural Center(MCC)*(Fridays 7pm) and *Cole Valley Fitness Center* call her at 753-0734.

*Oba! Oba!*

The power of the drum; perhaps the most potent mystery of the exotic energy of Carnaval. SF-CARNAVAL's most influential and famous Brazilian percussionist is a Mission home boy of Mexican descent named Chalo Edwardo. Last year his group, *ESCOLA NOVA DE SAMBA* had what may long remain the largest *bateria* ever assembled for the parade. This year, long-time assistant, Dennis Broughton and his *bateria*, *SAMBA CRUZ*, will be backing up a hot new contingent, *GINGA BRAZIL*. At the Galeria, Dennis showed off some *bateria* tempo change-up moves that had people talk'in and dancers hop'in. Dennis is based out of Santa Cruz which will be holding their 2nd annual Carnaval the second weekend in April....Getting more percussionists in the parade is a big priority, it is not so hard if you start practicing now. Mission district percussion classes include Chalo at 863-8291, Eric Rangel teaching Afro-Cuban percussion at the *Mission Cultural Center(MCC)* 821-1155...The most special moment at the Galeria came when Chalo introduced the dance by his very pregnant wife, saying, Josephine "with our baby". Carnaval culture's baby is the parade, and according to rumors coming out of MECA these days the baby will be on TV this Memorial Day Weekend

(5/27/90).

Some of you may remember the first float in last year's parade because of a stunning, samba queen in a G-stringless. Her name is Conceicau (pronounced kohn-say-sau) Damasceno and she together with her partner, Oba Oba defector, Mestre Beicola (Bay-so-la) have become major missionaries of Carnaval holding classes from Santa Cruz to Oakland. Conceicau is troubled that so many people including the writer of the big cover story in the February issue of *Peninsula* magazine seem to equate the sexuality expressed in Carnaval with immorality or "bimbo types." The eloquence of her solo dance at the Valentine Ball compellingly expressed that dance which acknowledges our sexuality is as much an art-form as anything and probably more so. Dressed simply in Brazilian peasant clothing, she gracefully and delicately became one with the soulful Portuguese ballad as the large boisterous crowd became

silently entranced in the post-midnight rhythms or her movements. Conceicau's new class at MCC will explore this type of dance Thursday evenings. *GINGA BRAZIL* is now preparing for the GRAND PARADE, every Sunday at *Caribee Dance Center*, 1408 Webster, downtown Oakland, \$3 admission, 428-0698 for more info.

Last year two Brazilian groups, the late, great Carlos Davila's *BLOCOS DE AMIGOS* and Rosana Brito's *CRAVO & CANELA* came together to form a dazzling burst of sensuality called *UNIDOS DE SAN FRANCISCO*. Their choreographer, Carlos Aceituno,(A-cee-tune-o) took the only Brazilian first place not won by *ESCOLA NOVA* and he has now formed a new contingent called *GRES-FOGONAROUPA* (Fogo-na-ho-pa). Bruce Silverman's *SONS OF ORPHEUS* will be helping out on their music. Carlos is staying close-lipped about their theme and costume design but you can find out more by attending the weekly Sunday meeting at *Citicentre Dance Studio* at 1428 Alice St. Oakland 3to6pm. More info call 592-5584. Carlos also teaches Capoeira for kids in SF and they will also be part of his contingent.

\* \* \*

**DEADLINE: CARNAVAL PARADE CONTINGENT FUND (CPCF)** Has been established to encourage the development and artistic growth of the parade contingents. Funding will range from \$250 to \$2000 and applications must be submitted by March 15, 1990. Contact MECA at 826-1401 for more info... This year there is interest in adding a "best song" to the Carnaval competition, artistic director, Marcus Gorden of MECA would like to know how many groups could submit a song in advance for possible CARNAVAL music cassette release...**VIDEO AVAILABLE**, Chris Collins of *Gateway Management & Realty* has a complete VHS tape of the 1989 GRAND PARADE++ It can be rented for \$1/day with \$20 deposit. His office is at 3236 21st St near Mission in SF...

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# THE NEW DRAMATIC CHRONICLE

"WE WRITE WHAT WE LIKE -- AND WE PRINT IT"  
 PUBLISHED BY THE JULIAN THEATRE OF SAN FRANCISCO  
 Independently and as a Section of The North Mission News

## MISSION STREET LANDMARK THREATENED

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**SAVE ME  
 SAVE ME!**

THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE NEW DRAMATIC CHRONICLE THE PAST TWO MONTHS know that the theatre on the left, originally "The Wigwam" and most recently operated as "Cine Latino," was damaged by the October Loma Prieta Earthquake. The owner has obtained an engineer's opinion recommending demolition, and on February 6 applied for a permit to tear this beautiful, historic building down. There's a backlog of about two months before the Planning Department will get to it, so NOW IS THE TIME TO HELP, if you believe this and other historic Playhouses in The Mission should be saved and restored.

Send letters to "Save The Wigwam" to the SF Planning Commission, 450 McAllister Street, 94102. Please send a copy to Save Our Mission Playhouses, care of THE NEW DRAMATIC CHRONICLE, Box 41-1015, SF 94141. We're hoping to restore The Mission to its rightful place as the finest Historic Entertainment District in San Francisco. Your contributions will also help, as will your energy in helping to research the history of all the remaining theatres, doing mailings and phone calls, leafleting (and designing the leaflets) and going to City hearings as they come up.

If you want to speak to someone, phone the Editor of this newspaper at 626-3668. There's a great history in The Wigwam and other Mission Playhouses. Once there were more theatres here than in any other neighborhood. The SF Conservatory of Music faculty were once the House Band, called "The Wigwam Orchestra," when it opened in 1909.

### BEST BETS FOR LIVE PERFORMANCES IN MARCH:

The New Dramatic Chronicle recommends the following excellent live theatre performances for the beginning of Spring.

**HELD OVER!** Trouble And Strife Theatre Company, featured in last month's NDC, are performing their two powerful plays, on N. Ireland prisons and on the modelling & porn industries, AT THE MISSION CULTURAL CENTER, 2868 MISSION near 25th, THROUGH MARCH 4 ONLY. CALL 626-8987 for ticket info, or buy them at Old Wives' Tales or Modern Times on Valencia St.

**EXTENDED:** Weyman Wong's WHISKEY CHICKEN, a wonderfully funny and touching family play starring Dennis Dun ("Midnight Caller"), and directed by Marc Hayashi ("The Laserman"). OK, it's not in The Mission, it's in another nice neighborhood, at The Asian American Theatre Center, 405 Arguello at Clement, and it's easy to get to, and very much worth the trip. It's been selling out at times, so call ahead: 751-2600.

**NEW:** David Barth, playwright and performer (and Julian Theatre playwright in residence), is hot this year. His THE HEEL, a frightening Big Brother play based on a real incident, just closed, but his newest, SPOOK'S LAMENT, opens March 22, with previews starting the 14th, at CLIMATE THEATER on 9th Street. Call 626-6422. Should be great.

**ALSO:** Broads Off Broadway open their clever set of 3 One-Acts by Carol Flint, CLASSICS about "Women and entrapment," on March 22, playing through April 1 at Center Space, Mariposa at Alabama Street. Call 387-7209 for ticket info & reservations.

**AT RIGHT:** An older play updated, Ed Bullins' powerful ghetto play IN THE WINE TIME, which opened NY's famous New Lafayette Theatre, is now playing Fridays through Sundays at the BMT Theatre in Emeryville, just off the bridge at 3629 San Pablo Avenue. The play looks at the "no way out" situation of young Urban Black Americans, except through alcohol or other drugs, or joining the military. Seen here are Vern Henderson (who also directs the play) and Sun Ra Bullins. An excellent piece of writing, with a very talented cast. It'll be coming to SF next month, first at the handsome Bayview Opera House, then at New College, co-produced by The Julian Theatre and BMT Theatre Company. For tickets for the Emeryville performances, or for public transportation directions (easy trip) call 654-6172.



# THE STATE OF THE ART OF THEATRE CRITICISM

"I SMELL THE SCENT OF A RENAISSANCE IN SAN FRANCISCO THEATRE JUST AROUND THE CORNER." So wrote Bernard "Bernie" Weiner, retiring San Francisco Chronicle chief theatrical critic, in a farewell article in CALLBOARD, a publication for the Bay Area's theatrical Industry.

Well, we had no idea he meant it literally, but just after he announced his retirement from the thankless job of Chron Critic, Bernie's Discount Pet Shoppe, seen here, opened on Valencia Street, near 18th. He's been mum about what he's planning after his last day March 3, but The New Dramatic Chronicle has a nose for the news.

What he doesn't know, perhaps, is that his Pet Shoppe is on the very spot (718 Valencia) where stood the original Valencia Hotel, before the BIG earthquake of '06, when Valencia Street had cable cars, theatres, and even more churches and funeral homes than it does now. According to the excellent new book "Denial of Disaster," all about the aftermath of that one, the Valencia was one of the worst tragedies: the first three floors of the four story hotel disappeared into the ground, which was a lake before the land-grabbers filled it in, and all but one or two of the occupants drowned. There must be a ghost or two hanging around that building, eh? Careful, Bernie!

Playing with words, as he's been doing in the Chron for a decade and a half, we looked up disaster ("unfortunate event" or, obsolete meaning: "an unfavorable aspect of a star") to see what the word is derivative of: DIS, in Roman mythology, was the god of the lower world. Appropriate. As a prefix it means "apart", "asunder", "utterly." ASTER is "a suffix used to form nouns denoting something that imperfectly resembles or merely apes the true thing, or an inferior or petty instance of something, as *critic-aster*, *poet-aster*, *ole-aster*." It's also a suffix meaning "star." (From Random House - American College Dictionary)

Weiner also wrote that he felt his creative life stopped when he signed on as critic for the Chron in the mid-70's. Mark Twain was the first Chron theatre critic (1866), and he quit, or was let go, after just a few months. What do you think? What do the local critics of theatre, of film or the other arts do for you? Do they help you to understand things, are they "consumer guides," in some lowest-common-denominator sense? Are they dis-asters - stars (lights) standing apart, do they, our local critics, imperfectly resemble the true thing? Write us - NDC - c/o THE JULIAN THEATRE, Box 41-1015, SF 94141, or call the Editor, (415) 626-3668. We'd love to print our readers' opinions of the local force of critics in future issues.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: At the end of February I had to drive to Los Angeles (before their earthquake) to meet about theatre safety rules and see some plays. As usual, I forgot to pack things, in this case extra socks. Stopping in Santa Maria to stock up, I found the hose of choice on the central coast store racks was a brand made by "Bernie's of California: Hosiery & Underwear." Aha! Now he's taking on the Fruit of the Loom as well as the pet food giants. The socks were all synthetic, but better than none at all.*

*Notice the stray dog in front of the Pet Shoppe, right. He was being chased by an overweight dog catcher with an old fashioned net. After several tries and misses, the dog catcher gave up and drove off. Who was that dog? Was s/he a ghost returned, from the Valencia Hotel disaster? Have you seen him/her/it? The dog catcher wants to know. NEXT MONTH: One of Mark Twain's dog columns from his days as a San Francisco newspaper columnist!*

## THE CLUB FOOT ORCHESTRA (below) performs at The Victoria

Theatre on 16th Street just off Mission on March 24th, in an evening of concert music, sharing the bill with ESKIMO. Call 552-3565 or The Victoria for ticket information.

(Photo Insert) Club Foot toured the U.S. East Coast shortly after the October Earthquake, performing their music to silent films at, among other places, NY's Museum of the American Film. They're seen here unloading their gear from the infamous "Blue Goose" truck belonging to The Julian Theatre. The Airport Police just shook their heads at the sight of the band and the truck.



The above graphic, printed in last month's NDC, was stolen and altered from THE SF EXAMINER. It was mentioned by that paper's Rob Morse in his column. The New Dramatic Chronicle appreciates the attention, and the fact The EX did not file suit for the theft of the graphic.

THE NEW DRAMATIC CHRONICLE CONTINUES AFTER TENANT TIMES  
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# TENANT TIMES

VOL. XI NO. 1

NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO TENANTS UNION

MARCH/APRIL 1990

## SUPES TO TENANTS: *DROP DEAD!*

On Feb. 12th a hyper-controversial but really extraordinarily weak measure to extend San Francisco's rent controls to vacated apartments was cynically murdered at a contentious Board of Supervisors meeting. The Bill, sponsored by Sup. Harry Britt, got only four of the six votes necessary for passage.

### KENNEDY, NELDER, GONZALES: *BOUGHT & SOLD*

Supervisors Wendy Nelder and Willie Kennedy who had supported similar measures in the past and now considered key votes, both turned coat and voted the legislation down. Britt's Bill, which had been lounging in Committee for many months would have limited rent increases to between 10 to 20 percent (and sometimes more) on rent controlled apartments that became vacant. There was no system of registration of legal rents—only "disclosure."

The city of San Francisco's current Rent "Stabilization" law which applies to more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the city's 200,000+ apartments, limits rent increases on apartments only when they are occupied. Once they are vacant the sky's (still) the limit!

The *SF Chronicle* reported the vote taken on Feb. 12th (Abe Lincoln's Birthday) "stunned members of the tenant advocacy movement . . ." These unidentified "members"—if they really exist—should have been emancipated from any illusions about the profoundly corrupt and flakoid nature of our beloved Supes, long before the 1990 birthday of the Great Emancipator.

Mitch Omerberg of the Affordable Housing Alliance and the principal lobbyist for the bill said that Sup. Kennedy's argument that the law was unfair was "phony and a total betrayal of her commitment to renters and to vacancy control."

### WHO'S THE SKUNK AND WHERE'S THE PARTY

Ironically, the *SF Examiner* reported, lobbyist Omerberg attended a Kennedy fund raising event sponsored by the "Coalition for Better Housing" (sic) a big bucks group of anti-tenant organizations. The *Examiner* said that Omerberg contributed \$250 but allegedly said that he didn't know at the time that the political soiree was sponsored by real estate interests—although they were represented.

Jack Davis, a spokesman for the Coalition for Better Housing (as well the SF Apartment Association), was quoted as saying that Omerberg showed up "as the proverbial skunk at the lawn party."

Kennedy and Nelder joined Supes Billy Maher, Jim Gonzales and Tom Hsieh in lynching the proposed law.

On the side of the angels were Sup. Britt, Nancy Walker, Doris Ward and Angela Alioto. Sup. Richard Hongisto, a landlord, was excused to avoid a conflict of interest. Terence Hallinan didn't want to be excused because of a possible conflict of interest (which he felt did not really exist here), but was not present for the vote.

Sup. Jim Gonzales supported vacancy control when he ran for state Senate in 1986, after failing in his bid, he was appointed by Mayor Feinstein to the Board. Now he votes against vacancy control. How Nice. How Convenient.



## BLOW TO AGNOS?

### POLITICALLY POSSIBLE, ANATOMICALLY IMPOSSIBLE

Gonzales was more obnoxious than ever at the Feb. 12th vacancy control showdown as he harassed Sup. Hallinan over Hallinan's denial of a conflict of interest. No rocket scientist, he was clearly well coached on what questions to fling at Hallinan and City Attorney Renne. It was reported that Gonzales had been frequently seen in the company of the omnipresent Real Estate hack Jack Davis, "skunk" (to use Davis' own phrase) at everybody's "lawn party" (except for renters in apartment buildings with no lawns).

On a roll, Sup. Gonzales now took on both alternative weekly newspapers in town. First he called the editor of the *San Francisco Weekly*, Marcelo Rodriguez, to blast him about a critical article that Rodriguez had written about Gonzales's vacancy control vote.

"He was furious, he was swearing at me, and finally said he wanted to meet me face to face, man to man," Rodriguez said. Gonzales showed up with a bouquet of flowers and called Rodriguez a "self-loathing Latino."

Not one to play favorites with his charm, Sup. Gonzo also called Jim Balderston at the equally critical *SF Bay Guardian*, and according to Balderston suggested that "I am a well known bodily orifice . . ." and that ". . . I perform an anatomically impossible act upon myself."

Sup. Terence Hallinan, who claimed during his campaign for Supe in 1988 that he would rid himself of absolutely all conflicts of interest, was linked to a family trust which owns several apartment buildings in SF. Indeed, previously the City Attorney, Louise Renne, had ruled that Hallinan had a conflict and could not vote on Rent Control matters.

But on the 12th Hallinan was threatening to vote anyway and damn the consequences. But when Nelder and Kennedy delivered their quid pro quo for the landlord's quo, Hallinan's vote became pointless as he lurked just outside the Board's jammed ornate chambers.

"Political observers" observed that the defeat of vacancy control was also a "blow" to Mayor Art Agnos. Mayor Art, you may remember, trumpeted this very bill at a Press Conference as a "smart" piece of legislation, at a packed kickoff last summer. Agnos now says: "I am committed to achieving this for as long as it takes."

And it may take some time. Sup. Billy Maher long in the comfy pocket of the Landlord/Realtor/Chamber lobby, said of the prospects for vacancy control "I think it's the end of the line." Two earlier versions of vacancy control (in 1980 and 1984)

were vetoed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Prop. U, a vacancy control initiative, opposed by Mayor Agnos, was deluged into defeat by oceans of landlord money in November of 1988.

Agnos cannot be held totally responsible for the St. Valentine's Day (minus 2) massacre of vacancy control. But compared to his full court press on the stadium issue, his efforts—considering his leverage in a "strong Mayor" charter city—seem puny. It took two years for vacancy control to get to the Board after Art assumed the Mayoral throne, for one thing. As Paul Boden, coordinator of the Coalition on the Homeless said of Mayor Art: "He did not do any lobbying like what he did for his little ballpark plan."

### LIAR, LIAR!

Shouts of "liar, liar" rang out in the crammed Supervisorial Chambers as Sup. Kennedy tried to explain her decision to vote no. The room was in no mood to hear her convoluted and pathetic alibi. No rocket scientist either, no flaming progressive, she has received support from the liberal/renter voting bloc because she came through on key issues like vacancy control. Until now.

"This is an absolute disgrace" said Board of Permit Appeals commissioner Paul Melhostad. He said that the Harvey Milk Democratic Club supported the re-election bid of Kennedy "almost solely because she said she would vote for vacancy control."

Kennedy said that she had not made "definitive promise" to vote for vacancy control, but only if the proposed law were to be "equitable and enforceable." The Britt/Agnos law was not equitable, she said because it did not apply to landlords who own apartments built after 1979.

She said that she climbed up into her attic to get the actual language of her campaign promise. She must have rummaged around to get her excuses also. No one had heard her ever offer such objections to the rent law before.

**"I don't even know who gives me what."**  
—SF Supervisor Willie Kennedy

**"If that's true, she's America's stupidest politician; if that's not true, well, she's a liar."**

—Jon Carroll, *Chronicle Columnist*

According to Sup. Kennedy "Homeless people have never benefitted from rent control and will not benefit from vacancy control because most of those units—the low income units—are occupied by upper middle class people, not by poor people. They're not. Upper middle class people occupy units that they pay \$400 or \$500 for." (Those in the lower cost units might like to inform Sup. Kennedy of the real world of renting.)

Writing in the Feb. 16th *Chronicle* columnist Jon Carroll noted that Sup. Kennedy responding to charges that she had been bought said: "I don't even know who gives me what." Carroll said "If that's true, she's America's stupidest politician; if that's not true, well, she's a liar."

Carroll's main target was Sup. Nelder and her reply ("it's absurd") to the charge of financial influence in her vacancy control vote. In "Our Miss Wendy Gets Ahsurd." "If you're a politician who changes her mind after getting a hefty chunk of money, the ball is in your court."

And more hefty chunks of money may be coming her way now that Nelder will be running against Richard Hongisto for the office of County Assessor in June. Real Estate interests may pump money into Wendy's race fearing the idiosyncratic Hongisto.

Cont. on Page 4

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### 20th Anniversary of the SFTU

This year the SF Tenants Union will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. Founded in 1970 as the Tenants Action Group, the SF Tenants Union is the oldest citywide tenants group in San Francisco, and one of the oldest such groups in California and the USA! The TU has counseled thousands of tenants and prevented millions of dollars in unjustified rent increases, prevented thousands of evictions and homeless persons from hitting the streets. The SFTU plans a celebration and reunion later this year. If you have been a member, counselor or volunteer with the SFTU and/or the associated housing movement over the past 20 years we want your participation. Call or write the SFTU Office.

# BIG BROTHER (LANDLORD) IS WATCHING WHAT TO DO WHEN LANDLORD DATA DUMPS ON YOU

It is becoming part of the landlord-tenant mating dance for the landlord to require a credit check before renting to a prospective tenant. It is increasingly common for tenant checking services to provide the landlord with information about the tenant's eviction history, as well. So, along with the rental application, many tenants-to-be are asked to grant permission for the landlord to obtain information about their credit and past tenant history before they are invited to sign their name on the bottom line of a rental agreement. Can the landlord require this information? What if you have bad credit? What if you've (gasp) been evicted before? What if the eviction wasn't for non-payment of rent? Will Paul of the Diamond Center help you in this situation? Before you go running to Paul to buy politically suspect diamonds, you should be aware of the law on credit checking and reporting as it relates to residential rental units.

The Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act (Calif. Civil Code Sections 1785.1, *et seq.*) is the law on credit checking in California. That law specifically provides that a landlord may check the credit history of prospective tenants. However, the landlord must provide the credit checking agency with a signed authorization from the tenant stating that the information may be released to the landlord in question. Thus, at the start of rental negotiations, many tenants-to-be are presented with a credit application form much like the one included here, asking for the tenant's bank account numbers, social security number, prior addresses, and credit history. In many cases the landlord, (usually a strong believer in laissez-faire capitalism), will also ask the tenant for a "credit-checking" fee. If you are asked to pay such a credit-checking fee, ask the landlord what credit reporting agency he or she plans to use, then check with the agency to see what they charge for use of their service. Many services are run by apartment house owner associations, or other such "non-profit" landlord service organization, and charge no fees for their services.

What if your credit is bad? Do you have to provide the landlord with authorization to check your credit? The short answer to the second question is no, although the landlord does not have to rent to you if you refuse such authorization. However, if landlords only rented to people with sterling credit ratings, there would be a much higher vacancy rate. One alternative a tenant has if she has bad credit, (or has good credit, but an understandable distaste for invasions of her privacy by relative strangers) is to prepare a "reference package" to present to the landlord.

This "reference package" should consist of written letters of reference from an employer, a past landlord or two, and/or any other source likely to impress a landlord (for instance, if you are a close personal friend of Dianne Feinstein, a letter from Di extolling your probity couldn't hurt. Or even a letter from someone who sounds like an authority—e.g., your Aunt Mabel, Assistant Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank). If you left your last residence under less than amicable circumstances, obtain a letter from a landlord who was favorably disposed towards you. The letters themselves should be fairly short, and contain assurances that you are stably employed, or have a stable income if you are not employed, and are in all respects an honest and law-abiding person. If possible, a letter from a former landlord should state that you paid your rent on time and left the premises in good condition.

These letters, presented to the landlord in response to his or her request for authorization to do a credit check, may be a sufficiently soothing alternative to a credit check for the landlord. You may also briefly explain that you have a credit problem (due to a bank error, of course!) that is in the process of being straightened out, and therefore your credit rating is not as accurate as your letters of reference. The letters of reference have the added benefits of immediacy (a bird in the hand, etc.), and convenience to the landlord (one less bureaucratic hoop to jump through).

If you can't get such written references, it may still be possible to avoid a credit check by providing the landlord with telephone numbers of references. Of course, you should be aware that, despite your references, the landlord may still require the credit check prior to rental, especially if the landlord is a large property management type, who will just hand off the actual credit checking duties to an underling. Remember, though, that the marketplace being what it is, if these scumhags don't want your money, you can

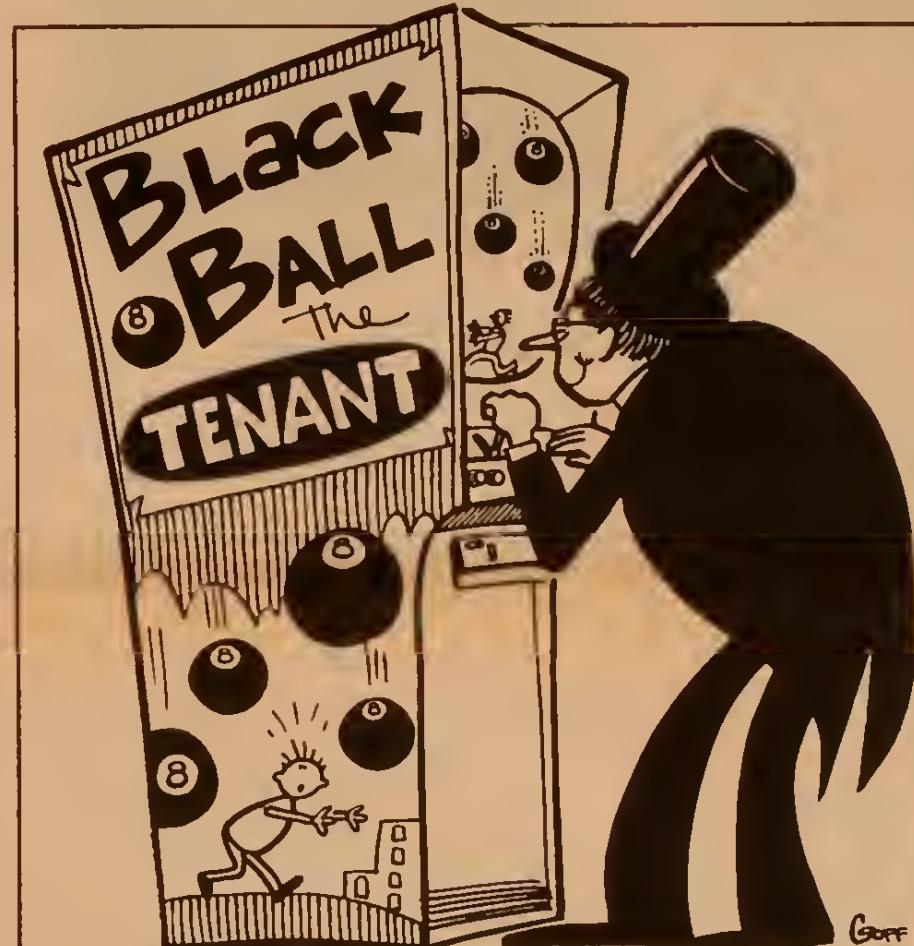
**"It is increasingly common for the tenant checking services to provide the landlord with information about the tenant's eviction history."**

always find another landlord who will rent to you—especially if you provide your own credit package up front.

Those of you with good credit can stop looking so smug—as mentioned previously, many credit checking services geared specifically towards landlords offer other information in addition to the tenant's credit history. Most commonly, these services search court records, and will provide the landlord with information on the tenant's eviction history, criminal history, etc. Some of these services, especially those provided as part of a landlord organization, also include statements from past landlords, if the landlord submits such a statement to the organization. Sections 1786 *et seq.* of the Civil Code allow credit reporting agencies to provide landlords with an "investigative consumer report" which may include information about a person's character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, obtained through interviews with employers, neighbors, public records, etc. However, with the exception of information gleaned from public records, no "investigative consumer report" may be furnished without written authorization of the consumer (i.e., the tenant). This is the most compelling reason I can think of for seeking alternatives to a credit check prior to rental.

The law requires that every credit checking and reporting agency allow the consumer visual access to all files concerning the consumer. The agency may not charge the consumer more than \$8.00 to inspect his or her file. Such access must be provided without charge if requested by the consumer (i.e., tenant) within 30 days after the consumer has been denied rental of a residence, or suffered other adverse action (such as increase in the rent or security amount charged) as a result of information contained in the file.

If the consumer questions the completeness or accuracy of any item of information contained in the file, and so informs the credit checking/reporting agency, the agency must, within a reasonable time, reinvestigate the disputed matter, and record the current status of the disputed information in the consumer's file, or delete the inaccurate information unless the agency has reason to believe that the dispute by the consumer is frivolous or irrelevant. Hint: an ultimate judgment for the tenant in an unlawful detainer action is never irrelevant, if the agency reported only that the eviction action had been filed against the tenant. If the credit checking/reporting agency determines that the dispute is frivolous or irrelevant it must notify the consumer of such determination, and allow the consumer to



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Public records, such as eviction actions, criminal proceedings, etc. may be obtained by the landlord without the tenant's authorization, as such information is public information. An agency who provides such information is required to provide the date such information was obtained, and the name of the court or other agency from which such information was obtained. There is a catch—the agency does not necessarily have to provide information about the ultimate disposition of an eviction action **unless the transaction involves the rental of a dwelling unit which exceeds \$1,000 per month.** In other words, if you ultimately won your eviction case, that information must be included in an eviction report only where the landlord is seeking the report in connection with the rental of a residence where the rent is \$1,000 per month, or higher.

So, what can you do about insuring that this information is accurate and complete, other than renting high-priced apartments?

If the landlord uses such a service, make sure you know which service he or she uses, even if you don't authorize a check of your credit. (How will you know if they use one? The landlord will ask you to fill out a credit check authorization, as they can obtain much more information with your authorization.) If you are denied the rental unit wholly or partly on the basis of information provided by a credit service, or if you are charged more rent or security based in whole or in part on such information, the landlord must so inform you, and provide you with the name and address of the credit checking/reporting agency. If he or she does not, ask them if the credit report had any basis on his or her decision. Whether or not the landlord states that the credit report was one of the reasons for not renting to you, or for increasing the amount of rent, you should check with the agency to find out what they have on file about you.

put a statement in his or her file setting forth the nature of the dispute. This statement must be furnished to anyone requesting information from the credit checking/reporting agency.

The Credit Reporting laws cited above contain protective provisions in addition to those discussed above, such as requiring the credit agencies to take steps to insure that the information divulged will be used for a permissible purpose, (i.e., for rental purposes, employment, etc.), requiring the agencies to take reasonable steps to correct inaccuracies, and to keep a record of those persons who request information on a consumer.

What can you do about violations of the Credit reporting laws (Calif. Civil Code Sections 1785, *et seq.*, and 1786 *et seq.*)?

First, the consumer must take the steps outlined above to correct any disputed information. If those are not successful, the consumer may be able to obtain an injunction prohibiting the credit agency from releasing the disputed information (this is rare, however). Finally, a consumer who suffers damages as a result of a violation of these laws by any person, including the landlord, may sue such person. Where the violation was negligent, the consumer may recover actual damages, including court costs, loss of wages, attorney's fees, and pain and suffering. Punitive damages may be recovered in cases of willful (i.e., intentional) violation of these laws. However, no action for defamation or invasion of privacy may not be brought unless the defamatory statement or invasion of privacy was done with malice or intent to injure the consumer.

*by Ellen Lyons*

This issue prepared by Michael Harney, Ted Gullicksen, Jim Faye, Ellen Lyons, Brian Doohan, and Michael Canright.

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# MISSION BAY DEBATE: INSTANT GENTRIFICATION OR WORKERS' HOME?

"Mister, the day the lottery I win...  
Won't never live'n no rental housing again!"  
(- with apologies to The Boss)

In an appearance before editors and reporters of neighborhood newspapers last month, Mayor Art Agnos unveiled preliminary details of the proposed Mission Bay development.

As reported in the January North Mission News, Santa Fe/Southern Pacific proposes a mixed office and housing project on over 300 acres south of Mission Creek. Included would be 8,000 housing units and office space for 20,000 workers. Most of the housing would be for sale, not rental, and between 1,000 and 3,000 of the units would be "affordable", depending on your definition of the word.

The proposal has been greeted with some criticism on environmental, seismic and financial grounds. Of most importance to tenants is whether it will alleviate housing inaffordability or, rather, gentrify surrounding neighborhoods like the South of Market, Potrero Hill and Mission.

Ira Kurlander, member of a task force that has drafted a "Citizens' Alternative" with more housing and less offices, points out that the present plan provides as many as 8,000 more jobs than housing opportunities - at any price.

Project supporters have had to perform a tricky dance, assuring local housing advocates that the surplus workers will choose to live outside the City while assuring environmentalists that the resultant commuter traffic won't overburden bridges and highways. The inherent contradictions have led some critics to dismiss the project as a "shining city in the swamp".

At the February press conference, Mayor Agnos, accompanied by City Planning consultant Alec Bash and Brad Paul, Deputy Mayor of Housing, compared the project to a combination of "Nob Hill without the towers" on the north side of Mission Creek and "a Marina district with a shoreline park twice the size of Marina Green" on the south.

He responded sharply to criticism of the jobs/housing imbalance. "We are providing twice as much housing as we need because most of the people who will work at Mission Bay have houses already. I'd be happy to be remembered as the Mayor who brought too many jobs to San Francisco."

Agnos blamed the dissent on "certain special interest groups" and singled out Haight-Ashbury activist Calvin Welch, a member of the Mission Bay Consortium (MBC), an umbrella organization of non-profit housing developers who would be expected to receive most of the free land that SF/SP is offering for affordable housing in return for the exemption of the project from office development limits.

At issue is who will control allocation of these affordable housing development parcels. Welch has proposed that this land be placed in a trust which would be administered by a board comprised of a "parity" between non-profits, SF/SP and the City. Agnos retorted at the press conference, "I reject that!"

The Mayor's point man in this issue is Brad Paul, who was active in developing and preserving affordable housing in the Tenderloin before crossing over to work for the City. Welch and Paul are both concerned about the same issue, "fairness" in parceling out housing opportunities to the non-profits, but they differ sharply in their interpretation of whether this would be best achieved by the public or private sector.

Other issues are involved in the trust-the-trust v. trust-the-government contention. Maryann Dillon of MBC member Mission Housing Development Corporation expresses a particular concern over the lengthy interval expected between allocation and construction. "Who will be responsible for liability insurance?" she asks. "Who will be responsible if large numbers of homeless people set up shantytowns there, as they probably will do?" (And after last month's vacancy control debacle probably will call Neldervilles!)

While neither side has specifically accused the other of tendencies towards corruption, both emphasize the long-range nature of the development plan. Over a 20 year period, the potential for a City administration less concerned with affordable housing or a bunch of less civic-minded non-profits snatching the lion's share of Mission Bay is raised.

During the Feinstein administration, affordable housing funds were dished out to slumlords like Arthur Zanello. When his buildings did not meet expectations, was it his fault or the City's? It is Welch's contention that, unless concerns like this are addressed specifically in the development agreement between SF/SP and the City, voters should consider rejecting the Prop. M exemption that is expected to be on the November ballot.

"Even with the free land," he further stated, "it will take a lot of money to make the housing affordable. Where is the City going to get this money from?"

Alec Bash, from the Planning Department, promised the Tenant Times that such a document would be released to the public in advance of the election. He also expressed confidence that Mission Bay housing would be even more affordable than Mayor Agnos had stated at the press conference.

According to Bash, Mission Bay's affordable housing will meet Welch's requirement that it be affordable to people making \$18 to \$20,000 yearly, slightly below the City's median income. Bash proposed the following prices:

Studios.....	\$50-92,000
One bedroom units....	\$60-107,000
Two bedroom units....	\$70-122,000
Three bedroom units...	\$80-137,000
Four bedroom units....	\$86-147,000

If one accepts the usual premise that people can afford housing that costs between 2 1/2 and 3 times their annual income, such a proposal, under certain conditions, would indeed make the housing affordable to many present renters. But there are a few big catches.

The main way that low to moderate income renters would be able to afford Mission Bay housing would be by forming what columnist Bill Mandel has popularized as "tenancies in common" (TICs) in which single adults and/or childless couples pool their resources to purchase housing.

A four person TIC could conceivably get into Mission Bay with an average income of \$10-12,000, which is much more in the range of most renters who work as cab drivers, restaurant workers, office clerks etc. But by allowing TICs, housing opportunities for families with children would all but vanish.

Another complication would occur if State or Federal funds were included in those things found under the big Bash sun. While certainly helpful, such funds often carry strings... minimum income requirements that disqualify households willing to pay more than 30-35% of their income to escape the horrors of the rented world. Many tenants pay 50-60% of such income in rents for which they receive no benefit and Mayor Agnos has to pay even more of his \$100,000+ salary to keep his own roof over his and his family's head.

Bash admitted that such issues as TICs and minimum incomes haven't even been discussed yet. Other neighborhoods are likely to squeal if Mission Bay diverts funds from their own housing problem areas and, further, the Bay Guardian charges that the treacherous definition of "affordability" may mean that as few as 1,000 units (as compared to the Agnos/Bash estimate of 3,000) would ultimately be available. Since less than one in ten households who participated in a "lottery" for the affordable Poly project in the Inner Sunset were able to buy a unit, the ultimate benefits of Mission Bay have to be viewed in this gambler's context.

Such complications seriously compromise contentions that San Francisco can build its way out of the present housing crisis. While the Tenants' Union and its members should follow developments at Mission Bay, the lesson has to be that the most affordable housing still is that which presently exists and must be preserved. To think otherwise is like blowing the rent money on lottery tickets and then throwing yourself upon your landlord's sympathies.

by Brian Doohan

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**DEAR TU**

Supervisor Kennedy said she voted against the latest vacancy control proposal because although she claims to support "the concept" of vacancy control if it is "fair and equitable," she thought this proposal was unfair because it didn't apply to landlords of apartments built after 1979. Her statements beg some serious questions:

First, since Kennedy claims to "favor the concept," why didn't she herself introduce vacancy control legislation which would fit her bill?

Secondly, as Kennedy well knows, the present rent control ordinance was passed in 1979 and specifically exempts apartments constructed after that date from rent control, supposedly so as not to discourage construction of new housing. Is Kennedy saying she would like to close that 11 year loophole? Or is she now implying that she opposes the whole rent control ordinance entirely?

Finally, Kennedy asserts that vacancy control would not benefit low income tenants. Is she saying, then, that the present system of charging as much as the market will bear *does* benefit these (or any) tenants? She was also quoted as saying "it doesn't matter how you vote in this city, you cannot win." Poor thing. Let's hope the next election proves her right, at least about the last part.

Kennedy's unprincipled, self-contradictory positions simply reveal the obvious, that she is voting for her *real* constituency: the landlords of San Francisco.

Sincerely,  
Roger Levin

Dear TU:

I have lived in San Francisco as a renter all my adult life. Being a single parent I was able to put my daughter through state college but never could save enough for a down payment on property. Nor could I even qualify as a home buyer as real estate values in the city constantly exceeded the level of my income. So I have been forced to live at the whim of the landlords, having to move every 5-7 years as each owner would succumb to the lure of inflated property values, selling my home out from under me.

My experiences as a renter taught me to not ask for repairs and improvements because these costs are invariably passed on as "rent increases."

For the past six years I lived in a house on Staples Avenue in the Sunnyside District. After suffering leaking roofs (which the owners refused to repair), rampaging dry rot, non-functioning windows, etc., my water heater quit working. My landlords said they would not repair or replace it and that I should move out. That's when I joined the Tenants Union and learned for the first time that renters do have some rights. After following the procedures outlined in Calif. Civil Code 1942 I purchased a new hot water heater. There ensued a year of illegal eviction attempts and a program of harassment which included telephone threats. Daily unannounced visits to my home during which my landlords destroyed and removed both my front and back gardens, cemented my mailbox shut and solicited signed statements against me from my neighbors. It was a nightmare. But because of the support and encouragement I received from the Tenants Union, my friends and neighbors, I was able to hang on...

To make a long story short... the landlords eventually sold the property and I took them to court, winning a nice settlement...

I could go on—Thank you for this chance to speak my piece. I plan to continue my membership in the TU. Let me know how else I can be of assistance in this important campaign to improve Rent Laws. God Bless you all for your hard work and dedication. Love and Peace,

Anne Hudgins



Deputy Mayor for Housing Brad Paul

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Workers' Rights/Tenants' Rights



## Support Your Tenants Union

The San Francisco Tenants Union is a volunteer based organization supported almost totally by our members. It is not inexpensive to operate an organization which provides a voice for tenants throughout the city and supports individual tenants in their battles with their landlords and we can always use more help from our members. There are many ways you can help out the TU.

First of all, you can send us your donations! We know you've had to shell out your hard earned dollars to become members in the first place and we certainly do appreciate it! But your extra donations can help us with our newsletter costs, revising our handbook, conducting Eviction Watch 89...

Second, you can encourage your friends, neighbors and associates to become members. You can use the coupon in this newsletter or call 282-6622 for further information.

Third, you can volunteer your time at our office. Your help is needed in the following areas: Community Outreach, Data Entry, Fundraising, Organizing, Legislative Work, Newsletter and Tenant Counseling. We are particularly short of counselors at this time, which means that our doors are shut and there's no one to answer the phone during many of our counseling shifts. We are having a four session counselor training workshop coming up soon. Anyone interested in counseling or other volunteer work should call 282-6622 and leave your name and phone number.

## JOIN THE SFTU

If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

New     Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(W) \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Units in Bldg. \_\_\_\_\_

# Bedrooms in Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Current Rent \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 Low Income

\$30 Regular

\$40 Household

\$60 Sustaining

I'd like to volunteer also:

Tenant Counseling

Newsletter

Legislative Committee

Organizing

Fundraising

Office Work

Outreach

Direct Action

Vacancy Control Campaign

Other

All members receive Tenant Rights Handbook and regular newsletter.

## NELDER, KENNEDY SELL OUT GONZALES, HSIEH, MAHER STAY BOUGHT

The Assessor's job pay \$90,000 a year, perhaps even enough to rent a modest apartment in the brave new Frisco that Wonderful Wacky Wendy Nelder is helping to build.

If neither Nelder nor Hongisto get more than 50% in June then there will be a runoff at the Nov. general election, in which event neither Hongisto nor Nelder could run for re-election to the Board of Supes. Interesting...

### BIG VOTE, BIG BUCKS, BIG DENIAL

Sup. Kennedy, one of the switch hitters in the vacancy control vote, received a reported \$12,000 in various campaign contributions from the rental industry and their friends.

Miss Wendy (Nelder) took home \$10,400 hucks from the realtor campaign lotto. Both denied the dollars had anything to do with the decision. Kennedy went further, "I don't even know who makes the contributions."

Kennedy may not know, but we do. At the notorious Coalition for Better Housing fundraiser in Sept. at least \$11,795 of the \$18,245 can be traced to real estate interests, according to Phillip Matier of the SF Examiner. These include such worthies as the SF Association of Realtors (\$500), Fox Plaza (\$500), The Golden Gateway Center (\$500) and Urban Homes Inc. (\$500).

Sup. Nelder, who raised \$37,325 last year, said the \$10,000+ that just happened to come from real estate interests had no influence. After all, she noted these folks had been giving to her all along. Right Wendy, just the point!

The bulk of the boodle appeared in Miss Wendy's campaign kitty after Sept. when she requested a 90 day pause in sending the vacancy control bill to the full Board. Pure coincidence. Right.

### THE CHAMBER IS COMING, THE CHAMBER IS COMING!

It seems that real estate money turned the tide and did the trick on vacancy control. But perhaps not...

"I think our (Chamber of Commerce) calls had more of an effect than the real estate money." Thus spoke Richard Barkhurst, last year's Chamber Chairman. This is from "Money Talks" by Business writer Thom Calandria who says that the Chamber "trying to show it has an impact in this town, put its so-called Paul Revere Phone Tree to work on killing vacancy control." Chamber official Jim Lazarus (former Feinstein aide) called four people, who each called four people, who each called four people. "Then, they all called Nelder and Kennedy. It was very effective," said Richard Barkhurst. So it was.

by Michael Harney

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## GOOD NEWS! PROPS Q AND R SHOT DOWN

In Nov. of 1989 city ballot propositions Q and R backed by real estate interests were defeated by a coalition of tenant and community groups, including the SF Tenants Union.

Not only were these Props losers but they were losers in a very big way that no one had predicted. Q & R were defeated by "No" votes of 66% and 70% respectively! Way To Go!!

All this in spite of us being outspent more than 24 to 1, with the realtors/developers/landlords spending over \$800,000 to win.

As you may recall, Prop. Q was on end run around vacancy control and a tax hike. Prop R would have allowed virtually unlimited conversions of apartments to unaffordable condominiums with all the associated evictions. Congratulations to all the groups involved. The *Tenant Times* featured much information about Q & R, with an ad sponsored by many of you. There was also a Ballot Handbook argument *y mucho mas!* Thanks & Praise to all SFTU members participating, the Housing & Tenants Council groups, and to Mitch Omerberg of the AHA for a sweet, huge electoral victory (at last).

**TENANT ADVOCATE      GENERAL CIVIL**

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## VACANCY CONTROL: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Ever since the City's rent control law was passed in 1979, the SFTU—as well as every other tenant group in the city—have sharply criticized the law for its failure to control rent on apartments when they become vacant. In general, our reasons for this are twofold:

(1) This loophole decontrols apartments when a tenant moves out, thus the rents on these apartments rise according to the inflated real estate market in SF, which is a rate well above the general inflation rate and well above the rate peoples' wages are rising. Each time a unit is decontrolled, a unit of affordable housing which is lost forever.

(2) This loophole provides clear incentive for landlords to evict longterm tenants. The longer rent is controlled on a unit, the greater the difference is between what the landlord is getting for rent and what could be gotten on the open market. Eviction is a proven method to decontrol a unit and increase rental income, and simultaneously, jack up the value of a building.

### THE BRITT/AGNOS VACANCY CONTROL BILL: A WEAK, NOW DEAD HORSE

This is maybe kicking a dead horse, but for history here are the two most striking flaws of the defeated and very weak vacancy control legislation:

(1) A cap on rents which increases the amount of rent a landlord can obtain the longer a tenant had lived in the vacant apartment continues the problem of landlord being financially motivated to evict longterm tenants. A fixed cap, similar to the cap on occupied units, eliminates that motivation. (Many of us also feel the caps proposed allowed much too much increase given the high level of rents of the majority of units, and the high turnover of some low rent units, i.e. residential hotels.)

(2) Vacancy control without registration of rents by landlords is unenforceable and may well make the whole proposal worthless, providing tenants with only a false sense of security. There are too many ways landlords can ignore, circumvent or simply lie about previous rent to new tenants and there is no mechanism for tenants to really disprove the word of the landlord.

### FUTURE OF VACANCY CONTROL

Over the last ten years the failure to pass vacancy control has allowed the rental market to go wild, bringing most rents up to near market. Meaningful vacancy control must not only have strong registration and real caps on rents but also now include ROLLRACKS ON EXISTING RENTS. The success of the Nader-sponsored Prop 103 for insurance rate control showed that voters will support strong regulation linked with rollbacks.

Should there be another ballot initiative in SF to put real rent control on the ballot? The Supes have failed again and again. Is it now once again time for the voters to act?

Let us know what you think.

# THE POWER OF THE ART

— by Isabel Allende

## TO OUR READERS --

This is the third installment of a speech "The Power of the Art," given by Isabel Allende at the 1989 Congress of the Arts in San Jose, one month after the Loma Prieta earthquake. The full talk will be printed in segments over the next several months, courtesy of the California Confederation of the Arts, sponsor of the Congress. You'll get this paper in the mail free by contributing to The Julian's 25th Year Season (see back page), or picking up The North Mission News each month almost anywhere in our neighborhood. Teachers and others (learners, I guess), who don't have the patience to read it over several months' time can contact The New Dramatic Chronicle, c/o The Julian Theatre, and purchase a photocopy. Our address is Box 41-101S, SF 94141. Phone us at 415-626-8986. For those of you who have already requested a copy, it will soon be printed, in co-publication with The Mission Cultural Center.

In the first two installments, Ms. Allende defined the arts as akin to humankind's dreams, and speculated on what from our world might be preserved by a future "perfect" species. Here she describes some of the aftermath of the political coup in which her husband was murdered.

## THE POWER OF THE ART - Part 3

Each civilization has understood the power of the arts and, in different ways, has tried to use it. Fortunately, art is a rebellious child, a wild animal that will not be tamed. Like dreams, it obeys only its own rules. Very often, when it has defied authority and the prevailing morals, when it has denounced, protested, or searched for some forbidden truth, it has been brutally repressed. Repressed, yes, but not totally subdued.

I have seen in the streets of Santiago, infamous pyres where the military burned books that the government considered subversive. It is difficult to convey the terror of that experience. Imagine the empty streets of a city under curfew at nightfall, where the echoes of gunfire and screams still resound. Imagine the people in their homes, peering from behind the curtains, and some strayed workers that find themselves trapped in the place, trying to hide in the dark alleys. Imagine the arrival of the heavy military trucks, the jeeps and motorcycles, the officer yelling and the soldiers cursing while they pile hundreds of books in a jumble, they soak them with gasoline and destroy them in a shameful bonfire that rises to the sky in a black column of smoke. Books don't burn easily. It takes them a long time to die.

Shortly after the military coup in Chile, an artist opened an exhibition of his work in Santiago. He had been working for a couple of years on a series of paintings about the state of his soul. He was a very sensitive person and he was probably undergoing some crisis, he felt trapped. The exhibition consisted of 20 oil paintings of cages, different forms of cages. Some had birds, others had people, even himself, and some were empty. The day after the opening, the police broke into the place, destroyed all the paintings and arrested the artist, the manager and the public. The official press reported that the exhibition had been closed because it was anti-patriotic, it insulted the Armed Forces and lied about the political situation. As everybody knows, the newspaper said, the Military Government has defeated the communists and now the beloved fatherland enjoys total freedom. The artist disappeared and was never seen again.

The day of the military coup, there were so many people arrested that they had to use the sports stadiums as prisons and torture centers. Victor Jara, one of the best known Chilean singers, who composed memorable music to enhance the joys and sorrows of his people, was taken to the National Stadium. After a long and cruel interrogation, the soldiers dragged him in front of thousands of prisoners, and cut off his hands. "Now sing, you bastard!" they ordered the dying man. And Victor Jara sang, loud and clear, until a bullet silenced him forever.

During the terrible years of the Dirty War, in Argentina, and the military dictatorships in Uruguay, bombs were placed in the theaters; actors, writers and painters were imprisoned, tortured, and sometimes killed. Singers and musicians suffered all sorts of harassments. The military considered that art should be subordinated to their political ideology. Censorship and self-censorship were so brutal, that it was impossible to create anything in that atmosphere. Ninety percent of the artists and intellectuals who survived were forced into exile.

In all these cases, there is a strong recognition of the power of the arts. The oppressors can't appreciate the beauty, but they know that there is a mysterious force in art. What is that power? Art is a mirror where reality is reflected in a magic way. Often we can't see and understand our own reality until it is reflected in that mirror. One single work of art can perpetuate the feeling of a race, a time, or an event. Usually it is the result of a lifetime of artistic search, like the mystical figures of El Greco, that tell us of the somber and religious Spain of the Sixteenth Century, and whose greatness was not recognized until three hundred years later; but sometimes it happens in one unique instant of inspiration. A road in Vietnam, a little girl running in terrible pain and fear, flames and smoke the background. One single photograph captures the horror of ten years of war and it becomes a work of art. In both cases an image has the power to summarize, explain and preserve. It also has the power to move the viewer, and, in some cases, change him. How many people have had the revelation of their own spirit when observing a painting of El Greco? How many have become determined pacifists when confronted with the photograph of the little girl? No wonder tyrants and most rulers have tried for millenia to master that force and subordinate the artists. Latin America is no exception.

(to continue) Next Month: The Legacy of Latin American Art

## PERSON OF THE MILLENIUM

All the news media are absolutely having orgasms lately over "freedom" breaking out around the world. Last month we described R. Buckminster Fuller as the "Person of the Century," and have gotten a lot of nods from our readers for printing a section of his verse on Democracy from NO MORE SECONDHAND GOD. This time let's dig back a little further, to find the person who was perhaps the real parent of democracy as we know it (or wish it could be). He was George Washington's speech writer and pamphleteer, he was Thomas Jefferson's good friend, until he refused U.S. citizenship following the Revolution, because what he really was after was world revolution to complete democracy for all — no slavery, no filthy rich capitalists, no standing armies.

He wanted to carry the Revolution back to England, to finally implement and improve upon the Magna Carta, then spread it across all borders. But the others turned on him when they came into power, and he died of a broken heart, as adults and their children threw stones at him as he passed, overtly because he was a professed atheist, but secretly because they were afraid of real freedom. 1990 is the 253rd year since his birth. Next month we'll explore his ideas on freedom and how to pay off the National Debt.

Here's a teaser:

"From what we now see, nothing of reform in

the political world ought to be held improbable. It is an age of Revolutions, in which everything may be looked for. The intrigue of Courts, by which the system of war is kept up, may provoke a confederation of Nations to abolish it: and a European Congress, to patronize the progress of free Government, and promote the civilization of Nations with each other, is an event nearer in probability, than once were the revolutions and Alliance of France and America."

- From RIGHTS OF MAN, published in March, 199 years ago. Dedicated to George Washington, "...that you may enjoy the happiness of seeing the New World regenerate the Old."

## THOMAS PAINE,

Pamphleteer, Broadside Printer, Rebel -- Person of the Millennium. Author of Common Sense, The Age of Reason, Agrarian Reform, and, some say, the U.S Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Certainly their inspiration.

IN FILM IN MARCH -- Marc Hayashi stars as the character Arthur Weiss (don't ask the logic) in THE LASERMAN, a high tech comedy by A GREAT WALL film-maker Peter Wang, playing in March at The Kabuki, easy to get to on the #22 from 16th Street. Multi-talented Hayashi also directs the new play WHISKEY CHICKEN, being held over indefinitely at Asian American Theatre Center, 405 Arguello. The NDC says "See It!"



## RICHARD'S ALMANAC--

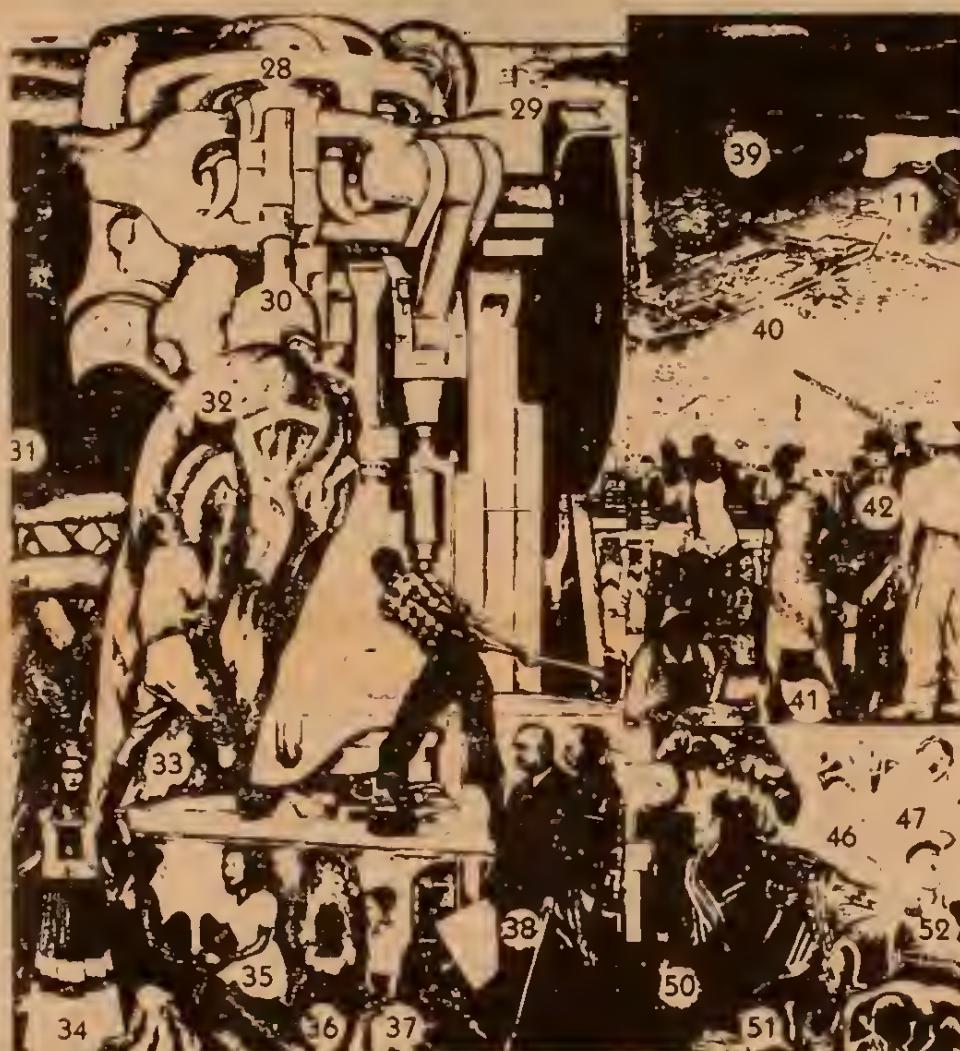
THIS ISSUE OF THE NEW DRAMATIC CHRONICLE IS MORE VISUAL THAN VERBAL. It's not that I've run out of words (Never!) but sometimes pics say more. "What are you reading, Hamlet?" "Words, words . . . WORDS!"

It's hard to reprint a photo of any portion of Diego Rivera's powerful mural "Pan American Unity" in black and white - almost a sacrilege. Part of the center section of it is shown below.

It was created while the public watched, during the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island, San Francisco Bay. Because of the War, then because he was considered a Red, the huge fresco was crated and left in storage for nearly twenty years, before it was handsomely installed in the lobby of the theatre at City College of SF, where it can be viewed when you attend plays or other events there. Rivera himself is in this portion, down in the lower left, holding hands with the wrong woman, as his wife Freda Kahlo (#34) looks on. (The numbers aren't on the mural, dummy, this is from a mural explanation you can pick up when you view it.)

Now the mural may be in great danger. The faculty of City College, and a committee of the SF Arts Commission have voted to remove the gigantic mural, and install it in the proposed new City College Library, to be built on the reservoir land across the street, at Ocean and Phelan avenues.

The New Dramatic Chronicle feels "Pan American Unity" should stay where it is. Use all the bucks it would cost to move it, and fix it after the movers drop a section or two, to create a new mural for the Library, by one or more of SF's new crop of world-famous muralists, and have enough left over to build a nice little cafe next to the theatre lobby where the mural can now be viewed close up. For more information, call us at 626-8986.



**SCOOP!** There'll be a new "Voice of the West" soon, the New Dramatic Chronicle has learned. No, we're not expanding our circulation, but there's a new statewide daily newspaper a-borning, THE CALIFORNIA TIMES, with lots of color and glitz.

We couldn't resist printing the two photos, to the right and below, of a Mission Street incident shortly after mail service resumed after the Earthquake. The mail picker-upper with the basket is a real asset to the Postal Service. We observed men all up and down Mission rushing out to mail envelopes they probably didn't even stuff with letters. The poor young fellow in the car was distracted a moment too long.

### HAPPENINGS:

The second "MISSION BEATS" TV show, the North Mission News on The Air, can be seen on Cable Channel 25 on Wednesday afternoon, March 7 at 4:30 PM. Don't have cable? Neither do I. The Dove Club, in The Women's Building on 18th off Valencia, will show it. Maybe see you there.

STBS, the full and half-price ticket service, will open a second 6-day a week booth on Monday, March 5 at noon, in Embarcadero One downtown. There'll be a party!



## TROUBLE AND STRIFE THEATRE COMPANY

from London garnered a great many fine words in the Bay Area press, and almost universal praise from audiences at The Mission Cultural Center during February (Held Over to March 4 only - call 626-8987 if you read this by then) for their two hard-hitting plays: "Now, And At The Hour Of Our Death," and "Next To You I Lie." But they'll be back - they're hoping for a national tour in a year or so. If you want to keep up with them, contact The Julian Theatre, their U.S. sponsor this trip, at Box 41-1015, SF 94141. Say you want to be on the "T/S Info List." If you know someone in another state or city who would be a potential sponsor, send that along.

The theatre at the MCC will undergo some needed renovations following (but not because of) Trouble & Strife's performances. The New Dramatic Chronicle will keep you up to date, or you can call the Center at 821-1155.

**BELOW:** Trouble & Strife's Director Abigail Morris is smiling, but Administrator Clare Pettit was reluctant to leave or to be photographed, as the two boarded their Northwest plane for Minneapolis, first stop on their return journey to London. "God, it seemed like we were only there for ten minutes, said Clare on the phone afterward." They learned on return that the British Arts Council had totally cut off their funding for the coming year.

Ed's Note: (actually, Richard's note) - Clare really didn't want to be photographed. After Abigail yanked her around and I snapped this shot, I turned to the long line of Minnesota people waiting patiently, as Minnesotans do, and explained "She's a bit shy." Got some chuckles, almost applause. Minnesota, my "home" state, is where T & S should go next, no doubt about it. You bet. "Oof Dal," they'll say, "Quite a show."



Now that Trouble & Strife is (are) gone, and this issue is out, the Editor may head for the neat little town of San Andreas, off the beaten track, but on Highway 49 in the Sierra Foothills, for a good meal and a night's rest at the Black Bart Inn. He needs some new tires on his Chevy first, though.

Greet Food and Great Service in the restaurant, with lots of humanity and humor among the staff. We haven't tried the beds - let's hope they treat a body right, but skip the jokes. There's a good history wall in the bar.

If you don't know who Black Bart was, and his connection to San Francisco and The Mission, go there and find out.

## Black Bart Inn

SAN ANDREAS, CA.



THE NEW DRAMATIC CHRONICLE is published monthly by The Julian Theatre of San Francisco, and distributed within The North Mission News and independently. Copyright 1990 by The Julian Theatre. Editor: Richard Reineccius. Contributors to this issue include Isabel Allende, Tony Stanford and Thomas Paine. Photos in this issue are by the Editor, except those that aren't: The Laserman and Club Foot Orchestra pics. To submit ideas or articles, contact The Julian Theatre at 415-626-8986/626-3668 or write Box 41-1015, San Francisco 94141.

# QUAKE RELIEF MONEY STILL AVAILABLE

- by Michael Page

**T**here is still time to apply for cash back for compensation for losses incurred by our now-historic earthquake. The deadline of January 19th has been extended through the efforts of La Raza Centro Legal (22nd and Mission) and other community plaintiffs who issued a class action suit. These groups charge that FEMA had discriminated against low income applicants. Many people were discouraged and intimidated but a few Mission residents who applied in October have already received their checks.

Everyone is still entitled to apply for grants of up to \$10,400 in assistance for personal property damage, lost wages, medical, dental and other repercussions of the quake.

The class action suit submitted one day before the previous cut-off date cites that FEMA insufficiently informed people of their rights and their access to an appeal process. FEMA's requirements that applicants prove that they have lived in their place of residence for at least 30 days is unfair to many people living in residential hotels because many landlords kick them out after 28 days in order to avoid granting them California tenants' rights. Also, FEMA's policy of awarding benefits to only one Head of Household sometimes hurts individuals and families sharing the living quarters. There was not enough outreach according to Black and Latino spokespeople like Dr. Eddie Welbon of Black Reparations and Connie Guzman of La Raza Centro Legal assured us that their communities were not adequately informed.

Guzman said La Raza Centro Legal (282-8877) will give FREE assistance and advice in filing claims, an especially valuable service for people with language, cultural and economic barriers, or just for those who feel intimidated.

Ms. Guzman points out that, regardless of your immigration status or your income, everyone should apply.

One woman who describes herself as a "welfare mother" living in the Mission has already received \$2,800 for her losses. She said, "It took about 15 minutes to apply. I expected to get, maybe, a few hundred dollars." She gave a brief summary of her losses and left.

In two weeks she was visited by two men from the Army Corps of Engineers. "They were nice. I did feel a little funny about all my Peace and Justice posters on the wall."

Other, more recent applicants-by-phone (FREE 1-800-462-9029 Mon. through Sat. 8 AM to 6 PM) have told us that they were visited by just one young "hippie-type" who was very pleasant. "They just ask for proof of address" (PG&E, phone bill, rent receipt or simply a signed statement) and NO PROOF OF DAMAGES IS REQUIRED!

Not everything will be covered by federal emergency funds. No "luxury or recreational" items or things for some self-employment. But you will get paid back for all damaged or destroyed food, clothing, household appliances (due to electrical power surges or whatever the quake related cause) and all necessary household furnishings.

Although the deadline is extended, you must not delay because, any day, FEMA could say "no more!" FEMA and State funds even pay for lost wages, transportation and moving costs, housing, medical, dental and mental health bills!

Apply today and get your needs met, tell the Government and Empower yourself and our community!

Call La Raza Legal Center (826-5506), Saint Peter's Housing Committee (282-8877) or the Coalition for Black Reparations (334-0220) for free assistance.

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The inspiring life story of Mrs. Eddy can be obtained at the Christian Science Reading Room in your area. A number of biographies are on special sale through April 30. The librarian will be happy to help you.

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# NATURALLY HEALTH + CARE!

by Lisa Berkelhammer, C.A.

"Call any vegetable, call it by name, and the chances are good that a vegetable will respond to you." — Frank Zappa

The Standard American Diet, (S.A.D.), is sadly lacking in vegetables, especially dark leafy greens, which are essential to good health. Lettuce, tomatoes, white potatoes, corn and a few other varieties represent the average American's vegetable vocabulary. Supermarket produce is often transported long distances, sprayed, stored and treated to preserve cosmetic quality at the expense of nutritional value.

Dark leafy greens, which contain many nutrients, fiber and water, should be consumed daily. Among these are kale, collards, mustard greens, beet greens and

watercress, as well as the more familiar cabbage, broccoli and spinach. Asian vegetables such as bok choy, Napa cabbage, Chinese broccoli and mizuna (Japanese mustard), are also highly recommended.

Start expanding your vegetable repertoire by experimenting with a new variety each week. Explore small cooperative foodstores which buy local produce from organic farmers. Learn to select high-quality produce - if it is grown locally, it will be fresher and cheaper than out of season items shipped from far away. Remember that taste buds can be re-educated; cook simply and enjoy the intrinsic flavor of food.

Improvise upon the following recipe to suit your individual preferences. Avoid

over-cooking and over-seasoning, keep recipes simple and those vegetables will respond to you!

## VEGETABLE PASTA

### Ingredients:

2 servings cooked pasta  
1 bunch dark leafy greens, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 TBS olive oil  
1/2 cup vegetable broth or water  
Lemon or lime juice to taste  
Pinch sea salt to taste

While the pasta is cooking, prepare vegetables. In a heavy saucepan, heat olive oil and briefly sauté garlic. Turn up flame, add greens and stir till they begin to cook. Pour liquid over the greens and cover to trap steam. Allow to cook over medium flame 3-4 minutes until tender, but not over-cooked. Season with lemon and salt. Toss in a large heated bowl with cooked, drained pasta. Alternate seasonings: fresh grated ginger, tamari sauce, chiles, black olives.

\*\*\*\*\*

Lisa Berkelhammer is a State and Nationally Certified Acupuncturist-Herbalist who practices at Quan Yin Acupuncture Center in San Francisco.

by Lisa Berkelhammer, C.A.

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING BEGINS IN APRIL

Begins in April, the Mission District will become part of San Francisco's curbside recycling program. Every week, on the same morning as regular garbage collection, a recycling truck will collect glass and metal cans, bottles and jars, plastic soda containers and newspapers and scrap paper. Residents of single family houses and apartment up to six units will be part of the program.

Curbside recycling is a joint effort of the City and County of San Francisco and Sunset Scavengers. According to Amy Perlmuter, Recycling Coordinator for the City, "We began curbside collection one year ago in the south central part of the city. It's already a big success, with a participation rate of over 70%. It's exciting to be able to bring the Mission and other neighborhoods into the program. We know that San Franciscans want to recycle, so we've developed a convenient curbside system."

Toward the end of March, Mission District residents will be provided with a sturdy blue recycling bin to begin collecting recyclables and complete instructions on what can be recycled and how to prepare materials for collection. The recycling program has scheduled three community meetings to discuss curbside recycling: Tuesday, March 20 at Miraloma Park Clubhouse, 350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd., Wednesday, March 21 at Jamestown Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks at 23rd Street and on Thursday, March 22 at the Community Meeting Room, Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. All three meetings will begin at 7:00 PM. The telephone number for curbside recycling is 330-CURB.

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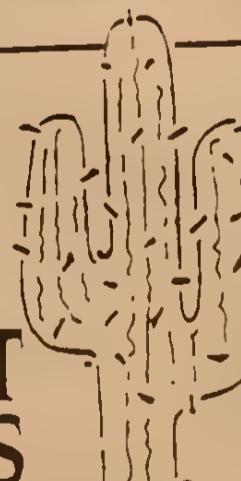


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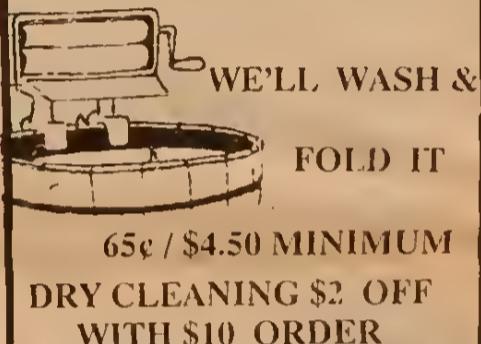
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# NEIGHBORS

by Norman Page

After two years in the making, Forest Books opened their doors finally on December 3, 1989 at their new location at the corner of 16th and Valencia. The first thing I noticed upon entering Forest Books was the immaculate cleanliness, the almost library-like organization, the comfortable lighting and the relaxed, almost serene atmosphere within the store.

I had difficulty believing this was, in fact, a used-book store. Punctuating the pastel walls and natural finish wood bookshelves are works by sculptor Takayuki Zoshi from the "Art That Makes Bare Branches Bloom" - bare winter branches transformed into blossoming art by means of leaves, glass, colored threads and cloths. All of these soft touches make browsing Forest's shelves very pleasant and painless.

the Telegraph Avenue used-book district in Berkeley.

The three are well on their way after the first three months of business. Used books here are ordered, categorized and presented with the same painstaking care and respect as new books in other retail stores. I noticed quite a good selection of translated poetry - possibly (or possibly not) due to the fact that both Beau and Gregory are poets themselves.

Forest Books holds poetry readings twice-a-month on every other Thursday (a schedule is available at the store) and recently worked in cooperation with Intersection for the Arts on a "Literary Residency" program while Intersection patiently awaits a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission. And for those of



LEFT TO RIGHT: BEAU BEAUSOLEIL, GREGORY WOOD, AND CLAIRE YOUNG-WOOD OF FORREST BOOKS

Asked why they chose the Mission and, in fact, this particular area of the Mission - 16th and Valencia - for the site of their new bookstore, owners (curators, if you will) Gregory Wood, Clare Young-Wood and Beau Beausoleil were all in agreement that this quarter is the City's burgeoning bookstore area and the fact that there were so many other used-bookstores around contributed to what Gregory termed "a dynamic health within the community". Their goal, or one of their desires, is that the 16th and Valencia area, already the used-book center of San Francisco, will soon develop a booksellers' market and a cooperation between bookstores themselves much like

you with children, Forest also has a children's reading area, decorated with art from the Buena Dias School. So look for a book, drop in on a poetry reading or check out the monthly art exhibits (Mr. Zoshi's work will be on display until March 15.) Forest Books, 3080 16th Street at Valencia on the ground floor of the Maria Alicia apartments.

Between bookstores, lectures, poetry readings, cafe intellectualizing and other heady activities (yeah, right!) I found myself one Saturday afternoon gazing in the show windows of Black and White Formal Wear. There was faux granite and flashy evening wear displayed on black backdrops. I turned

to check my location - yup, Mission Street - and says to myself, I says, "OK, I give up. What gives?" So I went inside and said to snazzy, short-cropped Angelo DiRosa of Black and White, "Lay it on me, Angelo. What gives? What's with tuxedos on Mission Street?" (Maybe it's me, but I don't see the two going hand in hand. Do you?)

Angelo proceeded to explain to me how well known this Black and White location is (it's Angelo's favorite of the three stores). "Our clients come from all over Northern California as well as the Bay Area for weddings and quinceaneras." Black and White specializes in custom bridal gowns and evening wear as well as excelling in formal wear sales and rentals. In fact, Angelo and Black and White coordinated the Formal Wear at Amelia's latest Butch Fashion Show and had just been featured in an exclusive interview on KRON channel 4 news the night before.

Well, well. Black and White Formal Wear, 2093 Mission Street, 552-7613.

Speaking of tuxes and formal wear, it's that time of year again when people of all races, creeds and nationalities become green for just one day. Yup, it's St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 17 (Good Lord, a Saturday!) and I figured you might need a little help getting a handle on what bars are doing what, where and when. So, in order to facilitate the festivities, here is, without further adieu, a condensed listing of events at some local drinking establishments (i.e. a last minute, half-assed listing of bars easily reached within walking distance):

McCarthy's Original - We start with the oldest and most venerable. McCarthy's

will be celebrating its 58th St. Patrick's Day with a four-piece band from noon on. Continued singing, step dancers and more music until 1 AM or so. McCarthy's features Guinness and Harp on tap and will be serving cornbeef and cabbage dinners until 8 PM. (2327 Mission near 19th)

The Dovre Club - The Irish have been partying over at the formerly Scandinavian-owned bar and dance hall for 24 years now and owner Paddy Nolan hasn't mellowed an ounce in his Nationalist sentiments. A live band will be playing Ceili and traditional music all day and there'll be plenty of cornbeef and cabbage as well as a pint or two (or three) of Guinness and Harp on tap. Long live the Brotherhood, Paddy! (18th between Valencia and Guerrero)

O'Jack's Elixir - Starting at 10 AM, Bill O'Carson's bar will be serving cornbeef and cabbage and Guinness on tap in the 20 oz. glasses. And don't forget the "Bring Judith Back in Style" Honda Scooter campaign continues, five cents of every dollar goes towards getting poor Judith "out of the pink". (16th and Guerrero)

Schooner Tavern - Those young, brash drunkards at the Schooner will be rocking through their second St. Patrick's with something called "St. Patrick's tacos", just what the good Saint might have wanted had he been chasing snakes from the Mission instead. Keep a very sharp eye out for Miss Guinness who will be making a guest appearance sometime during the weekend. Guinness and lots (and lots) of mullachey behind the bar. (1498 Valencia at 26th)

Well, have a great (and safe) time. If I get in the way, just give me a good kick. Sloncha!



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# MISSION: COMPUTE

by Manuel E. Dávila

After almost a decade since the introduction of personal computers, many users are unfamiliar with the most fundamental rudiments needed to get a decent minimum out of their machines. Why is this so?

back to basics

More than 80% of the calls for help I get from PC users are due to their ignorance of how their machines, or more specifically, how the operating system works. A little effort could have spared them the \$35 to \$50 per hour (sometimes more), that a computer expert or consultant charges.

If you are one of those, you may want to wait until machines really become user-friendly, as they say. Given the way the market operates, namely, squeezing out the last drop of marketability a product has, I doubt this will happen soon. The closest thing is a Macintosh from Apple Computer, and only at a premium price. On the IBM-compatible side things are happening at a good pace but the price is prohibitive too.

What's the choice then? Well, my friends... read, read, and practice, practice. Also, if you happen to have a friend or associate who has acquired the knowledge, ask questions, as many as they can tolerate. Joining a computer users club is a very good idea too. Not only will you acquire valuable knowledge, but will also get your hands on some good inexpensive software.

So, finally, let's go back to the basics and review our knowledge of the operating system, which is about the only, and perhaps most important thing we can do, for the moment.

The Operating System is literally, the system that allows us to operate the computer. And operating the computer means, being able to get it ready for work, and to perform the operations it was designed to perform. Different machines have different operating systems simply because they are built differently -- this is what makes them "incompatible".

The principal manufacturer of operating systems for the IBM and compatible machines is Microsoft. Thus, the operating system for the IBM and compatibles is called MS-DOS, for MicroSoft Disk Operating System. The same machine may use different versions of the same operating system, which means that the newer versions can perform additional tasks, or perform them in a different, hopefully, more efficient way. A classical example is DOS version 2.0, which gave PC's the capability, not found in Version 1.0, to manage hard disks. Most recently, version 4.0, has given the user a friendlier interface and the capacity to manage Disks larger than 32 Million bytes as a single disk.

Things then start to get more complex with the advent of IBM's Personal System 2 computers. These machines are different than the older generation of PC's, and so they have a different Operating System, although it has a "compatibility box", which allows running the same programs you run under your current operating system, but without profiting from the more advanced features of their new operating system, called OS/2. So much for machines and versions.

The diskettes where the operating system has been recorded are called system disks. Actually there are only three files in those diskettes that will get the machine ready for operation. These files are named: IBMDOS.COM, IBMBIO.COM, and COMMAND.COM. Don't leave home without them, for your machine will not start.

Many of the problems faced by the user are related to these files. Sometimes the COMMAND.COM gets damaged and the machine will not run. This may be due to the fact that this file is read more frequently than any other. It may get damaged when you move your machine to a different place in your room or office, especially if you happen to have a hard disk and the bad habit of not "parking" the heads of your hard drive. This seldom used utility parks the reading/recording heads of your drive in an area where there is no data and helps you avoid problems due to transporting or bumping.

Other times, when you get a bootleg copy of any program which has already been installed, you may inadvertently obtain the COMMAND.COM from another version which has been installed with it with the result that now you have COMMAND.COM's from two different version of operating systems. This will freeze your computer and may cause the loss of valuable data.

If your operating system files are OK, then your machine will start (or boot up) and is ready for work. Not only it is ready, at this point there is a lot of potential already in your machine which you can tap and for which you need no additional software or applications. These are internal capabilities that were installed when the operating system took control after booting up. We call these, internal commands. With the internal commands you can copy, erase, rename, create records, print them, merge them; you can create subdirectories and even write programs.

Follow us to our next article where you will begin learning how to optimize this potential.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear NMN,

Too bad you don't have a letter column (sic), but here goes anyway. I read Mayor Bignose' october column with some interest, since I do be homeless! The fact that few homeless persons trust cops, and have every reason to be paranoid on sight of one or more in the vicinity, makes one wonder how Bignose' plan for "neighborhood improvement" (usually buzzwords for gettin' rid o' the scum o' the earth, etc.) will improve neighborhood life for the homeless???

It was especially encouraging to note that Arty artfully put me and crack dealers next door to one anotha in the same long sentence. We are not amused.

I do admit to occasionally getting high on life and/or pot, I also object to being slandered and hustled. How is Bignose' plan different from any other historical effort to remove any other historical effort to remove uncomfortable reality and vitality from urban streets?

Thornton Kimes

Editor:

**I**t's good to know that a Koban is now on 16 and Mission. I'm sure it has cut down crime in the area but like so many people I'd really like to see it open later than 8 when the more violent crimes occur.

- Rick Weaver

Editor:

**WAKE UP SAN FRANCISCO!**

**I**t's time for a housecleaning at City Hall. Our local government has degenerated into a sinkhold of nepotism, corruption and political game playing. In the vanguard of this garbage is Mayor Agnos who has conspired with members of the Board of Supervisors to accomplish nothing of substance. This group of illiterate cretins has in the

- Victoria Kirby

**T**hank you, on behalf of the staff and board of the Women's Building, for your excellent coverage of Celebration of Craftswomen, the Building's benefit Arts and Crafts Fair. It was a resounding success this year at its new location at Fort Mason. We could not have increased attendance as dramatically without the assistance of you and others in the media who got the word out all over California.

- Rick Fenton

past two years committed the following atrocities:

- 1) Furthering personal agendas at public expense
- 2) Enacting legislation to give preferential treatment to special interest groups
- 3) Engaging in financial disasters to benefit their friends and political contributors
- 4) Failing to listen to the wishes of the community
- 5) Trading support for issues with other politicians
- 6) Conveying an image which erodes public confidence

In short, this is the most pathetic group of stooges who have dipped their snouts in the public trough.

Now is the time for all citizens to send a message to these zombies that we have had enough. Start now to do the following:

- A) Organize groups in your neighborhood
- B) Attend Supervisors' meetings
- C) Participate in the petition process
- D) Start recall campaigns if they won't listen
- E) Finally (most importantly) when they're up for re-election

**VOTE THE BASTARDS OUT!  
NO ON ALL INCUMBENTS!**

- Rick Fenton



Literature • Politics • Art

3/7 ARTURO ISLAS, author of THE RAIN GOD, has just published his new novel of Chicano community and family, MIGRANT SOULS, Isolas will read from MIGRANT SOULS and sign copies of the novel. 7:30 p.m. FREE.

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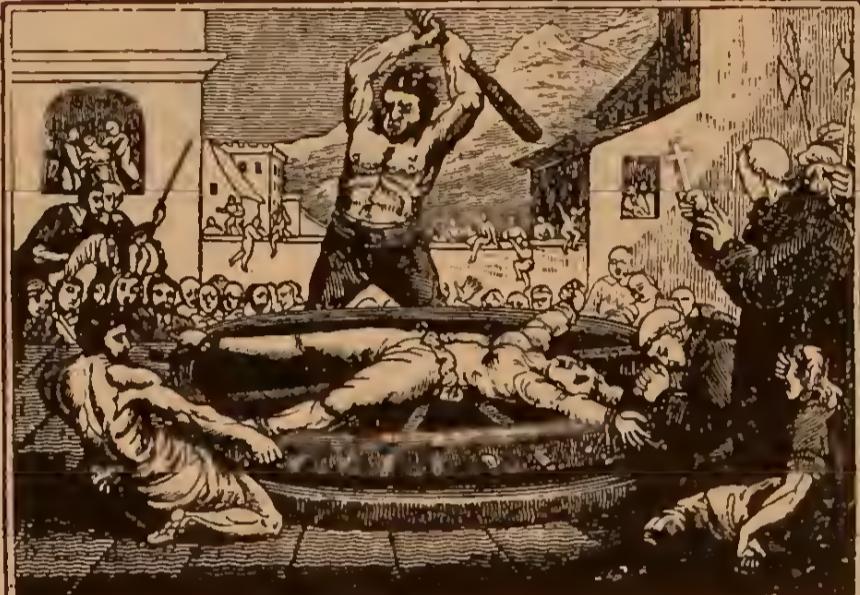
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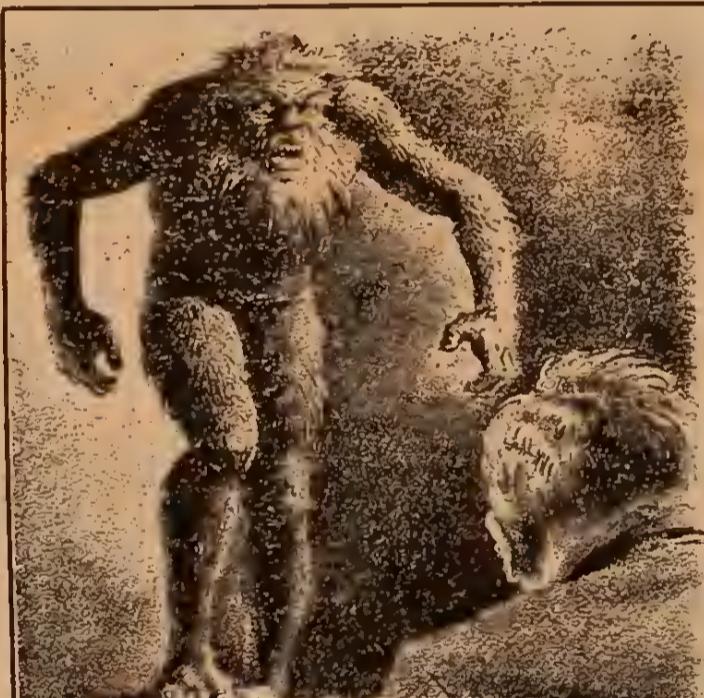
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## NEIGHBOR

### THE GOOD



### POLICY

What does a poet do in a society that kills poets? Does he/she sit in artsy coffeehouses scribbling on soggy napkins with a bloody finger? Does he/she stare with haunted eyes at all the ghosts who populate his/her hell of mirrors? Does he/she fling chicken McNuggets into the mouths of dead plaster saints? Does he/she watch the Beverly Hillbillies? How can he/she, laid in that white rush?

Better maybe to stand upon the rooftops waving genitals and rent receipts. Better to break your neck trying to lick the fog from the sky. Better still, much better maybe still, to dance. Not the cha-cha, though, or carioca, clog of frug. A Danse Macabre, perhaps? Squish of maggots between your bare Tom Sawyer toes? Dance like that, they'll shave your head, boy; they'll shove resumes up your ass, anoint you in spit, bludgeon you with bundles of incomprehensible gibberish, the lonely arts club blues, like dig it, like Poetry Flash, like come up to my place and fuck my conceptual wounds. Dance too well or sing too well and you'll see yourself on hell's own television, taking bows and scraping, nigger of the world, a sacrificial bull garlanded in flowers.

So what's the answer? What's a poor boy/girl poet to do in a society that kills poets?

Art won't save you. Heart will save you. Sing from the heart, then, and leave out the farts and roses and the tapdance in the pure white light of sodom's sequanimity, the inka dinka doo, y'knowwhatimean?

Like, be a mensch for Dog's sake, not a poet. Be a klipschutz. Sing from where you live, if you can find the key, if you can afford the bus fare or the late night transfer of the soul, or whatever bullshit price the critics like myself exact before we'll let you go home.

Be a human being, a klipschutz, and you'll "find your voice", as the professors say. You may not find anybody to listen, you may not be as lucky as the actual klipschutz, who's just had another book put out (THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY, End of the Century Books, \$5 fucking 95); you may not get laid, you may not get paid, you may not write another poem for the rest of your life when you find out that poetry does not consist of the embroidery of spiritual doilies but is, in fact, nothing more or less than the sound of A HUMAN BEING TALKING.

Like this, "america", from THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY: "I want all the women/all the money/and all the fun//I want every rainbow/all the marbles/and a personalized introduction to God//I want a death list/transparent skin/and a cat with no fur//I want everything/I have nothing/I will negotiate."

So what does a poet do in a society that kills poets?

What a stupid question! What does anybody do? We all have to eat shit sometimes if we're gonna lay that golden egg. We all have to negotiate with the enemy. We are the enemy. Y'knowwhatimean? Y'do? Then you're a poet already.

Buy THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY and you'll sit in the company of Immortal Poetic Genius forever. And while you're at it, man, put a bandaid on that thing; it's starting to bleed again.

by Frank Stauff



#### *o matter of policy*

The cop downstairs beats his wife  
really throws her around

I was brought up to have respect  
for the law

I was brought up by 2 aunts  
not related to me  
or each other

I was brought up right  
in the heart of America  
the heart that keeps giving out  
the one you read about in the papers  
that quits at fifty forty thirty  
the one they're replacing with monkeys

& machines  
Everything's different  
where I was brought up  
I was brought up to show respect  
for the individual the right to privacy

I practice the Good Neighbor Policy:  
I wear earplugs

KLIPSCHUTZ



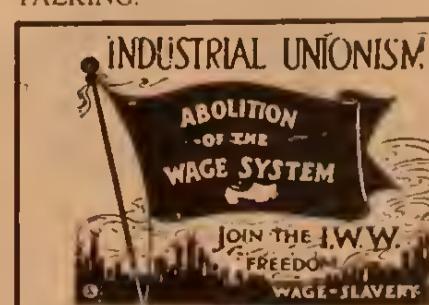
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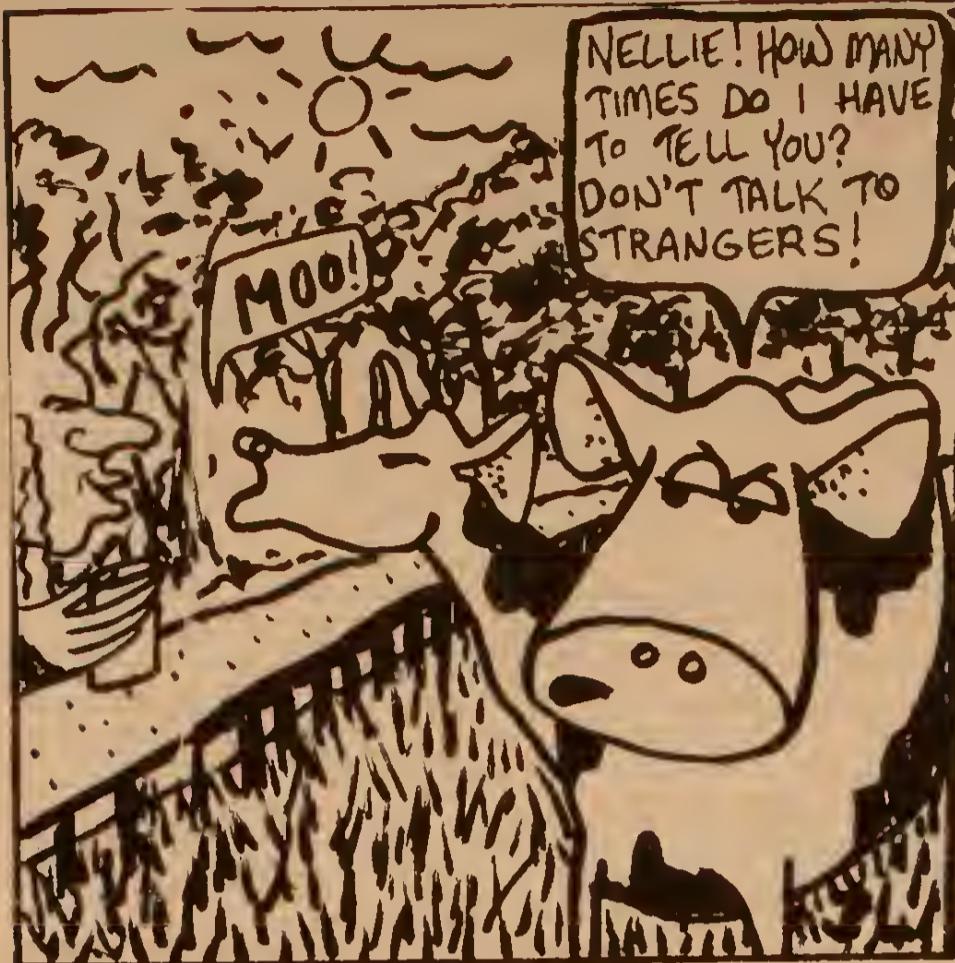
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# THE EQUINOX TOLLS FOR THEE



*Rob Morse, SF Examiner, 02/13/90: The North Mission News, a spunky little community newspaper...*

by Don Stevens

I am really a lucky guy. Right after I wrote the piece last month about those idiot Forty Niners, I got a call from Planned Parenthood about doing a comedy gig at their annual retreat up in Sonoma, a perfect place to hide out while the heat cooled down. Let the wife stay home to open those suspicious mail packages.

For me a trip on BART to Berkeley rivals Marco Polo's exploits, so I was not ready for Sonoma. They have Nature up there. I mean, on the way back, *during the day*, the moon was out. That's like expecting Robin Williams solo and then get an extra delight because Milt Abel opens.

We were at Westerbeke Ranch, a wonderful place despite that they seem to believe in new age stupidity. My host said, "You're in the Green Cabin." I soon realized how complicated life in SF has become. If a place here were called Green, it'd be named after a Green who snubbed a mayor or done something important. When I found the cabin, I realized it was named Green because the trim was - painted green.

It was pouring rain, and the cabin was up a steep slope, along those bogus sidewalks with sticks built in to make levels, the water furiously cascading down so that I felt like a trout spawning against all odds, kind of the natural Planned Parenthood.

They showed a movie on abortion that twice showed a five week old aborted fetus and closed with a man reading an extremely touching last letter he received from his sister, who died during an illegal abortion in 1934 (the Depression, kids). Then they said, "Time for comedy!" and introduced me. I'm just so, so lucky, I should be dead.

The next day, they invited me to their board meeting, but I declined, pointing out with a horrible pun that *board* can also be spelled *bored*. I went out to commune with nature. After 15 minutes of that, I was even more bored than had I gone to the meeting, so I decided to walk to town, which consisted of a gas station and a 7-11. On the way I saw amazing things, for a city boy:

Trees. Get this: in Sonoma, there are more trees than people. I'm not making this up. And some of these trees, *hundreds* of these trees, are in remote places where you can't imagine anyone would have even gone to do planting. I still can't figure out how they got there. And get this: most of the trees have moss on them. I mean, think about that for a minute; *compound plants*. How do they do that?

*Plants with colors.* I don't mean green, which is a color, blandly. I saw two flowers next to each other, and one was yellow, the other purple. I don't know if you remember your elementry physics, but these two colors are on opposite ends of the spectrum. Yet in Sonoma, neighbors; as incongruous as those boutiques at Haight/Ashbury.

*Baby animals.* Now, I'm not stupid. I know full grown animals imply baby animals. But when was the last time you saw one? I'm no stranger to animals, since I pass 16th Street BART station often, but the ones I see there are adults. In Sonoma I actually saw baby beef. He was in the field with his folks (all 30 or so of his moms and dads) eating grass! I still don't know how they got him to do that. I can't imagine steers are too smart (c'mon, an animal named after what you do to a car?), so how do they teach steerlings to eat things as green as grass? My sister's kid, who's a human, had to be tortured to learn to eat Gerber's Creamed Asparagus (but tortured only because his English wasn't advanced enough to respect the argument that he do it for those starving vegetarians in India).

*Animals on mountains.* I'm sure someone who knows Sonoma will write to say there are no mountains there, only hills, but don't waste my time; I've heard these silly arguments. Look, I'm from Michigan, where anything bigger than a speed bump is a hill. Those are mountains out there. And they had animals up on them. I'm not sure how they talked them into getting up there, but I want you know it's a fact. They are up there, and even seem happy. Why? How?

*Rustic Stereotypes.* While walking down the road, I saw the lid of a Skoal can. Then someone went by in a pickup and yelled "Ooooh-eeeeee". I'm not making this up.

*Birds that fly.* This was the biggest shocker of all. I saw one bird after another lift off the ground and remember that starting to fly should mean continuing to fly - and it would continue, up in the air and all around. It did not forget two feet off the ground and land again to start fighting with itself over a scrap of moldy bread or a shred of the Chronicle. I'm not sure what they're teaching birds in Sonoma, but I liked it.

I felt the Planned Parenthood folks liked me; they laughed during my set, and gave me massive quantities of condoms. However, someone pointed out, "Maybe they were just saying you shouldn't reproduce."

*Don Stevens is the pseudonym of Arnold Schwarzenegger.*

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## MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

### MARCH 1990

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 2

**Zelda**, William Luce's one-woman portrait of F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous wife, based on her writings. Directed by Frederick Karl van Patten. 8:30pm, at The Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th Street, at Folsom. 621-4423. Reduced rates March 2, 3, 4. Opening night March 7.

**Democracy in Latin America: Visions and Realities**, a book presentation by authors Susanne Jones and Nancy Stein. 7:30pm, at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia. FREE. 282-9246.

**Local 7 Concert**, a dance theatre performance, by Bay Area writers choreographers, and performers. 8:30pm at Footwork Dancers' Group, 3221 22nd Street. \$7. 824-5044. Also March 3.

**Morgan's Cake**, a film by Bay Area filmmaker Rick Schmidt, looks at dilemmas seen by many 18-year-olds: divorced parents, a pregnant girlfriend and the draft. A one-week run, at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street. 863-1087.

**Lesbian Writers Benefit Reading**, presented by IMPACT, for lesbian writers attending OUTWRITE '90, the first national Gay and Lesbian Writers Conference. 8:00pm, at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street. \$8. 621-1463.

**The Velvet Revolution**, a multi-media exhibition featuring art and documentation created in Czechoslovakia during the November uprising. Reception 6:00pm, slide show 8:30pm, at Artists Television Access, 922 Valencia. \$3. 863-6274.

#### SATURDAY MARCH 3

**Trash and Thrash**, an OTHER CINEMA program, includes Dave Markey's "Desperate Teenage Lovedolls," and odd music clips. 8:30pm, Artists Television Access, 922 Valencia. \$4. 824-3890.

**Comedy Showcase**, presenting the "unzipped mind" of Ralph Tkko. Satirical humor and irreverent wit. Also featuring comedian Diane Satin. 9:00pm, at Stan's, 1401 Valencia. 658-3339.

**Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Live by Satellite**, on the Nicaraguan elections. Broadcast in Spanish and English, will also include taped interviews with international observers, voters, electoral officials, and opposition candidates. With the election results, now more important than ever to attend. 6:00pm, Mission High School, at 18th and Dolores. 654-5885 or 330-5471.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

**Noche de Ambiente** cultural evening celebrating Lesbian and Gay Latino culture, will benefit lesbian/gay groups. 7:30pm, at the Mission Cultural Center, Mission Street between 24th and 25th Streets. \$6-\$15, sliding scale. 282-9246.

**Criminologist Elliott Curry** speaks from his forthcoming book of interviews with imprisoned teenagers. Sponsored by the Graduate Psychology Department, New College of California. 7:00pm, 777 Valencia Street. 861-4168 or 552-7361.

**Alexandria and Her Egyptian Ghawazee Dancers**, a spring dance performance by the Aswan Dancers. Experience the magic of an Egyptian ritual. 2:00pm, at 829 Elizabeth Street. \$7 advance, \$8 door. 282-7910.

#### MONDAY MARCH 5

**Spring Season Playoff Madness**, an improvisational comedy theatre. Monday night teams lap up victories or crash and burn. Sponsored by Bay Area Theatresports. 8:00pm, at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. \$6. 824-8220 for reservations. Also March 12, 19, 26.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 6

**Quit Smoking Clinic**, an eight-session opportunity to learn about your smoking behavior and how to quit. Sponsored by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. 6:30pm, at Health Center #1, 3850 17th Street. \$35.00, includes all materials. 558-2226. Advance registration required.

**Leslea Newman** reads poetry from her forthcoming book, **Secrets**. This is an event especially for women. 7:30pm, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. \$1-3, sliding scale. 821-4675.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

**Class: Playwriting for Women**. Bay Area playwright and actress Terry Baum will teach novice and experienced playwrights with structured exercises. Evenings. Small Press Traffic Bookstore, at Guerrero and 24th Street. 648-5244.

**Arturo Islas** will read from his new novel of the Chicano community, **Migrant Souls**, and will sign copies. 7:30pm, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia. FREE. 282-9246.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 8

**Sue Bender** will read from her acclaimed book, **Plain and Simple: A Woman's Journey to the Amish**, sharing her experiences with the daily life of the Amish. 7:30pm, at Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. FREE. 821-4675.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

**Taking Shape: An Evening of Cultural Performances**, includes excerpts from works in progress of "Los Esparitos in the Covered Courtyard Todavia," on March 9, 10, 11; "Real Women Have Curves," March 10, 11; "Omega," on March 9, 10; and "Sex, Drugs and Apple Pie." Lively discussion following performances. 8:00pm, Friday and Saturday, and 7:00pm, Sunday. Center Space Studio Theatre, 2840 Mariposa Street. \$6-\$10, sliding scale. 641-7657.

**Macfarland/Whistler/Danceart Company** will premiere two new dance works, one by choreographer Emily Keeler based on the work of Colette; the second by choreographer Duncan Macfarland, titled "Albert's Dream of Isaac's Law." 8:30pm, at the New Performance Gallery, 17th at Shotwell. 863-9834. Also March 10.

Endangered Paradise, a slide show about the Alaskan Wilderness, by photographer/environmentalist Barry Levine. Presented by Artists Television Access. 8:00pm, at 922 Valencia. \$2. 824-3890.

Benefit Concert for the Women's Needs Center. Patty McGill, guitarist/songwriter performs original works. 8:00pm, Cafe Fanari, 2773 24th Street, at Hampshire. 648-7811.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Banned Films, including Jean Genet's "Un Chant d'Amour," Jerry Tartaglia's "Ecce Homo," Peggy Ahwesh's "Martina's Playhouse," and other works will be presented by Artists Television Access. 8:00pm, at 922 Valencia. \$5. 824-3890.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Tales of the Diaspora film premiere presented by the San Francisco Film Arts Foundation, includes "The Yiddische Gauchos," and "Trees Cry for Rain: A Sephardic Journey," and offer stories of Jewish traditions with a common link to Spanish culture. 12:00noon, at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street. \$4-\$5. 552-8760.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 12

Learn to Make Paper Airplanes, a children's program for ages 8 and up. Presented by John Collins, author of Gliding Flight. 4:00pm, at Mission Branch Public Library, 3359 24th Street. FREE. 824-2810.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 13

The Frog Prince, a video featuring the Muppets, for kids ages 6 and up. 3:30pm, Mission Branch Library, at 3359 24th Street. FREE. 824-2810.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Slide Lecture/Presentation on Women at Work. Leslie Ernst will discuss social and political realities faced by women working as prostitutes. Jessica Hopkins will discuss women in blue-collar trades. 7:30pm, Eye Gallery, 1151 Mission Street. \$3-\$4. 431-6911.

Jeanne Cordova will sign and read from her book, Kicking the Habit: A Lesbian Nun's Story. 7:30pm, at Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. FREE. 821-4675.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Agony, Ecstasy, Excess, three films, including Peggy Ahwesh and Keith Sanborn's "The Dead Man," Yukio Mishima's "Rite of Love and Death," and Stefan Cluver's "Observations of Certain Sensations." 8:30pm, at Artists Television Access, 922 Valencia. \$4. 824-3890.

The Looters and World Entertainment, perform at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street. 863-7576.

Cream, a showcase of Lesbian and Gay artists perform dance theatre, in outrageously funny, tender, bawdy, intimate and honest expressions. 8:30pm, at Footwork, 3221 22nd Street. \$7. 824-5044.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 19

The Perils and Promise of Perestroika, a lecture by Boris Kagarlitsky, coordinator of the Moscow Popular Front, and a key figure in the Soviet New Left. Sponsored by Socialist Review. 8:00pm, at New College of California, 777 Valencia.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Carolyn Merchant will discuss her new book, Ecological Revolution: Nature, Gender and Science in New England. 7:30pm, Modern Times Bookstore, 958 Valencia. FREE. 282-9246.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Classics, a premiere evening of three award-winning one-act plays by Carol Flint. Presented by Broads off Broadway, it explores issues of women and entrapment. 8:00pm, 1326 Shotwell. \$10. 387-7209. Also showing March 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, and April 1.

Beverly Kalinin talks about her book, Power to the Dancers!: Self Actualization for Women through Dancing. 7:30pm, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia Street. Donation. 821-4675.

#### FRIDAY MARCH 23

Miracles of the Flesh, comic slides, skits and puppets describing adventures and disasters of the human body. 10:30pm, at the Climate Theatre, 252 9th Street. \$8-\$10. 626-9196. Runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, until April 7.

Films with Robert Mapplethorpe and Kenneth Anger, including "Robert Mapplethorpe having his Nipple Pierced," by Sandy Daley. Kenneth Anger films include "Fireworks," "Scorpio Rising," and "Kustom Kar Kommandos." 8:00pm and 10:00pm, at New College of California, 777 Valencia. \$5-\$10, sliding scale. 824-3890.

Cary Soto will read from his newly released poetry book, Who Will Know Us? a vivid portrayal of barrio life. 7:30pm, at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia. FREE. 282-9246.

UAE, with its former members of the Beatnigs, and a special guest, will perform at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street. 821-7576.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Make a Mural! with local Mission muralists, for ages 8 and up. 2:00pm, at Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th Street. 824-2810.

Our Bodies, Our Selves, a collection of films on women's lives by a variety of filmmakers. 8:30pm, at Artists Television Access, 922 Valencia. \$5. 824-3890.

Eskimo and Clubfoot Orchestra will perform at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street. 863-7576.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 27

Pinocchio, Walt Disney's classic delightful film for children of all ages. 3:30pm, at

the Mission Branch Library, 3359 24th Street. 824-2810.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Punk/New Wave Filmfest, including classic films of the 1970s. Featuring DEVO, Japanese punk and others. 8:00pm and 10:00pm, at Artists Television Access, 922 Valencia. \$5-\$10, sliding scale. 824-3890.

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of The Lesbian Path, a noted collection of autobiographical essays. Open discussion about the ways our lives have changed over the decade. 7:30pm, Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia. FREE. 821-4675.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Films by Females, featuring films by Leslie Thornton, Caroline Blair, Kathy Brew, Madeline Altmann, Jennifer Tait, and Elizabeth House. 8:30pm, at Artists Television Access, 922 Valencia. \$4. 824-3890.



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**A**LMANAC: The Winter of 1990 comes to a mellow conclusion this month and the skies are clear of stressful signs and omens. The Full Moon occurs on March 11 at 3:00 AM PST and the New Moon occurs on March 26 at 11:48 AM PST. Spring will begin in the Northern Hemisphere of Planet Earth on March 20 at 1:20 PM PST; in the Southern Hemisphere the Equinox signals the beginning of autumn. And so the Earth, she rocks and rolls through the seasons of our lives.

**ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 19) & RISING:** Your social circle is expanding beyond all previous limitations as hundreds of new friends find you to be the most exciting thing that's happened in their lives in years. In the rush of notoriety, don't forget those old pals from the past; there may be signs of intense jealousy if you forsake old friendships entirely. Put on a golden aura and razzle the crowds with your charm. You are the hero!

**TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 20) & RISING:** Ride a high horse this whole month long. Despite the fact that your self-righteous convictions are very difficult for some lazy people to understand, there's real value in your self-proclaimed gospel. You are spending your currency of belief on projects which others envy. Your fame and fortune are overwhelming petty problems and most minor suffering is disappearing from your life. Are you worth it? Of course!

**GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 20) & RISING:** This month helps you to realize how much impact your relationship has had on your social image. In the last year you have become one with your partner and ordinary folks can barely distinguish between the two of you. Hopefully your lover's influence has been positive and you will ride the glory road together for ye another month. If his/her reputation has shown any signs of decline, you must seriously consider separation at your earliest convenience. Stay away from sinking ships.

**CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 20) & RISING:** Over the next four weeks you will begin to fully understand the tremendous evolution which has occurred in your life. While you sit in your little world of self-protection and constant concern, everyone else has drawn serious conclusions about your position and your potential. There's a big gap between who you think you are and what others have decided you are. Trust your friends enough to come out of your shell. Forgive and forget.

**LEO (JUL 21 - AUG 21) & RISING:** March will be another month of intense work and concentrated effort. For a Leo, this much commitment to anything is extraordinary, but the trend has lasted for three months and you still have this month to go. There's no doubt that this is merely a passing condition; you'll probably never work this hard again in your life. So make sure you eat good food, get plenty of sleep and stay away from any kind of drugs.

**VIRGO (AUG 22 - SEP 21) & RISING:** After all this teasing you will be called upon to prove your love. You've dropped a thousand hints and you've made a million suggestions, but now it's time to walk up to the object of your affection and say the real thing. Avoid innuendo at all cost and be as bold and daring as you have ever imagined.

When you feel like you're delivering a punch of pure love, your sweetheart may take it only as a tap of intimacy. Prove the power of your love.

**LIBRA (SEP 22 - OCT 22) & RISING:** You will not believe how much work you get done around the house this month. The entire structure of your home and even your family will be restructured. After the terrible tragedy of last year, the new security will ease the suffering which has eaten a big hole in your heart. Take care of the finishing touches; tie up all the loose ends. Then settle back, enjoy the new shape of your life. You have a whole new family to get to know.

**SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 22) & RISING:** Young people are going to make you age this month, so you may as well make a promise to not hold onto your youth anymore. You cannot act like a child when the children are looking to you for insight, discipline and leadership. It was your choice to put yourself in such intense contact with so many young folks, so accept the consequences. Despite the wide gap between you and the younger generation, remember, they are your allies, not your enemies.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21) & RISING:** A big pile of money ends up in your bank account before the 15th of this month. This is a legitimate reward for all the legal finagling you've done in the last three months; your persistence has paid off. Now, you must consider the possibility of moving into a new residence or, even better, buying into a piece of property where no landlord could ever bother you again. It's time to discover that you have a lot more credit than you give yourself credit for.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21) & RISING:** This strange period of isolation and loneliness will be over with by the Equinox. Finish the process by enrolling in self-development classes and reading some new self-help books. Reaffirm new friendships in celebration of your new self-confidence. But by the end of the month, you should be ready to change your address. It seems that a long-distance lover now has room for you to move in. Grab the opportunity to move.

**AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 18) & RISING:** This month is a month of empowerment for you. Study figures in history who achieved power and adopt their methods in your own process. Study theories of power and let those feelings of unlimited control rise into your consciousness and strengthen your whole body. Remember, power is a realization of your true self; it is not a way of controlling others. But if you learn how to control yourself, you will be asked to control others.

**PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20) & RISING:** Happy, happy Birthday to all you lovely Pisces! The economy may collapse, the ice age may occur, all life may be threatened, but you will survive because you know how to laugh. This month will keep you in constant hysterics as all systems go into overload mode. Your humor will be sorely needed by a world which is taking itself too seriously. Act stupid for your birthday in 1990 and it will make all the difference in the world.

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# A BADD DAY FOR THE IRISH

(a St. Paddy's Day memoir)

It was Bill E. Badd's last Saint Patrick's Day, March 1988. We were sitting around in Bill's room, Room #15 at the All-Star Hotel; Bill and I and Old Lady Margaret from upstairs.

"How long does it take to make a drink, for God's sake," said Old Lady Margaret as Bill fumbled shaky-handed with some poorly washed glasses and a pint of E&J "Irish" brandy.

"You want ice?" Bill asked, licking a few spilled drops of brandy from the Irish flag tattoo on his arm.

"Forget the ice."

"How 'bout some mixer?"

"Whaddya got?"

"Gatorade. The green stuff — not the orange."

"Gimme that drink." Old Lady Margaret snatched the glass from Bill as he poured green Gatorade on his stocking foot.

"How 'bout you, Frankenstein Deadbeast?"

"Sure. Why not?"

"Right on, Deadbeast." He took off his sock and wrung it out in my glass. "So like I was saying before Margaret interrupted me... back when I lived in Belfast and I was a Major in the I.R.A.—"

"You got a smoke?" Old Lady M. leaned drunkenly toward Bill and made a grab for his cigarette. He teased her with it, holding it out of reach of her stubby arms.

Just then, a large black rat shot out of a hole in the wainscoting and made a dash across the floor. It only made it halfway;

Bill brought his soggy foot down on its tail and held it there as it squeaked and struggled. Oddly enough, it made no attempt to bite him; in fact, it seemed to be trying desperately to keep its nose as far away as possible from Bill's foot.

"So as I was saying... back when I was a General in the I.R.A.—"

"Wait a minute." Margaret was trying to light the cigarette Bill had given her with a burnt-out match. "I thought you said you was a Major in the I.R.A."

"Yeah, that's right. First I was a Major, then I was a General."

"Ah, you Irishmen are all alike." Old Lady Margaret was not Irish she was half Puerto Rican, half something else — but she'd lived in the Mission long enough to know her Irishmen. "You know what I think?" she said. "I think an Irishman ain't nothin' but a nigger turned inside-out."

Bill laughed, filling the air with combustible fumes of alcohol. "You better not say anything racist in front of Frank," he said. "One time I gave a poetry reading at one of Frank's Deadbeat benefits at some Ubangi nightclub, and before I read he came up to me on stage and whispered in my ear, don't say anything racist, Bill." He kept on laughing, rocking back and forth on the shapeless heap of his bed. Even the rat, still trapped, was tittering. After several minutes — and several gulps of his green concoction — he regained his composure. "So anyway... back in Belfast, when I was commander-in-chief of the I.R.A.—" "Say, Bill," I interrupted him, "why is it that you



came back here if you're such a patriotic mick? Why didn't you stay in Belfast? What are you doing bad-mouthing Maggie Thatcher in the safety of the Mission District when you could be dodging rubber bullets in Ulster? I mean, the potato famine's been over for a while now."

"Yeah," said Bill, reaching down and picking the exhausted rat up by its skinny

tail, dangling it for a moment over his open mouth, and then swallowing it in a single gulp, "but ol' Saint Patrick chased all the snakes out of Ireland, remember?"

And every year when Bill shed his old skin, his Irish flag tattoo was brighter than the year before.

by Frank Deadbeat

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